

PC Update

December 2000 –
January 2001
Volume 17
Issue 11

Tracking Your Shares
Censorship and the Internet
Big Christmas Shopping Guide
Programming Tutorials
and more...



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Melb PC Directory

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Margaret Greer
Kerry Williams

First Aid (Help) line

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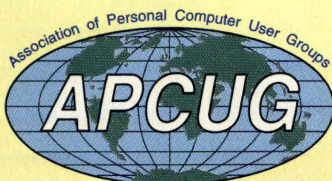
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PC Update

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Submissions

E-mail your articles, reports, reviews, and free ads to pcupdate@melbpc.org.au as file attachments. They can be Word files, plain, unformatted (ASCII) text files or plain unformatted (ASCII) text files bundled in a ZIP file with accompanying graphics. Do not pack them inside self-extracting EXE files. Submissions can also be sent by post on a virus-free diskette, which will not be returned, to the Group's PO Box.

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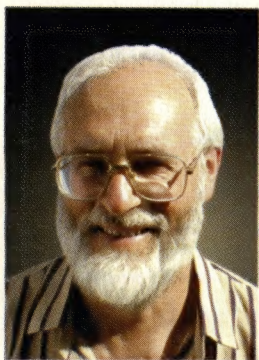
All articles are edited for style, spelling, grammar and length. Articles that may not be edited or that do not meet our standards, will be rejected.

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Supply graphics in original format in Corel or PageMaker files, or as TIFF, PCX, JPEG, EPS, AI or WMF images. Screen shots should be RGB, as captured, ie. with resolution and colour unaltered. Save as TIFF, JPEG or PCX. Do not supply GIF files.

Rejections

Contact the editor if your submission is not published within four issues. Self-extracting files are rejected without notification. Other rejections are advised by phone or in writing.



PC (President's Comments)

George Skarbek
President

Election Results

As there were no challenges to the existing executive, the current positions are unchanged. I have listed the elected committee and allocated portfolios on the opposite page. The primary objective of the entire committee is to look after the interests of all members.

Mornington Peninsula Special Interest Group

Three members have volunteered to start a new SIG in the region, coordinated by John Harris. The inaugural meeting of this group will be held on Monday 4 December at 7:30 pm at Mt Eliza Community Centre, Canadian Bay Rd, Mt Eliza. This will be your chance to decide where and when you wish to meet and the meeting format.

There will also a Random Access session, your chance to ask about any computer problems you have been experiencing as well as a presentation of online shopping. Although not necessary, it would be appreciated if you could let John Harris know you will be attending; john.harris@acslink.aone.net.au.

The existing group, ICE (Independent Computer Enthusiasts) is contemplating a cooperative venture with Melb PC. They meet at Cas McInnes Lecture Theatre at the Mornington Peninsula Hospital, Hastings Rd, Frankston. The next meeting will be on Thursday 23 November. The main objective of that meeting will be to discuss the future directions of ICE. However, there will also be a Question and Answer session so you can ask the experts about your computer problems.

Internet Update

Additional phone lines. The thirty additional phone lines that were on order in late June are finally operational. There will not be any new phone numbers, just more capacity on the existing number 96974000. This should reduce the chance of a busy signal during the evening peak.

Larger capacity link. In our quest to provide a better service for users of the group's Internet service we have ordered a 10 Mbit Ethernet connection from the Dorcas Street premises to 530 Collins St, where we are connected to the bulk data providers and the rest of the Internet (*see Internet Newsletter No 12, page 10, PC Update October 2000*). This new fibre connection will replace our existing 2 Mbit DDS link and it will be provided by Uecomm. It should be in place within about three months. The main delay is for Uecomm to obtain permission from Telstra to run their cable the short distance from St Kilda Rd. to 27 Dorcas Street.

This new cable will approximately double our existing capacity. Although simple arithmetic would indicate an increase of a factor of 5 (10 Mbit/2), Ethernet cannot be loaded to 100% of its capacity with 40-50% being regarded as full loaded. Any further increase in load would result in too many packet collisions and retransmissions. The DDS link can be loaded to the rated capacity and is bidirectional. However, as most of the data is inbound the bidirectional feature does not significantly affect our operation.

When the new cable is installed we will

be able to purchase more bandwidth and further improve performance. The annual cost of the 10 Mbit Ethernet connection will be less than two thirds the cost of the existing Telstra 2 Mbit DDS link.

Next Monthly Meeting

On Wednesday 6 December at the Pharmacy College in Parkville there will be some of the most exciting computing happening in your hand. We have invited Palm Computers to tell us all about those nifty little wonders and how they can help your computing. VISIO has been a popular program for years and enhanced by Microsoft. The new edition is amazingly versatile — come along and see.

The Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG) has gathered some of the best freeware and shareware around and bundled it onto one exciting CD-ROM. As a member you can buy it for just \$10 but what's in it? Kelvin Cording will demonstrate some of the programs from that CD-ROM.

The meeting will also have the popular Random Access session (your chance to ask the experts — see page 60), the usual giveaways and raffle, often with several thousand dollars of prizes being raffled, shareware library sales and more. For a map of how to find the Pharmacy College see page 63. Hope to see you there.

Guest Editorial

The millennium comes to a close. Yes, I'm one of those people who believes a ten year period finishes at the END of the tenth year. Likewise, the current two thousand year period is just ending. But, reality was blurred, wasn't it? Perhaps many of those who celebrated last year really only wanted an excuse for two lots of parties. That's cool.

Melb PC's Future?

What's in store for Melb PC during the first few years of this third millennium? Will it survive and grow, and go on to become one of those lasting institutions? Will there be a famous old building somewhere in Melbourne in the year 2034, several stories high, filled to capacity each week night with hundreds of people attending SIGs as we approach our 50th Anniversary?

No? Well, perhaps we'll attend virtual meetings instead. It's not difficult to imagine that most new residential accommodation in 30 years time could include an Internet meeting room where cameras are automatically activated as we enter the room and the full-wall, flat monitor flashes to life, displaying a maze of small, moving images — the faces of the people already involved in this morning's meeting. Point your laser

beam at one of the images to zoom in and look closely some *object* your friend Joe Bloggs is dismantling and discussing, somewhere in Iceland, or South America. Press another button on the laser to zoom back out and discuss Joe's problem with the other meeting participants located in fourteen different countries. Will change be quite so rapid? I think not, but who would dare write the *official* forecast.

In the meantime, Melb PC thrives as we see constant change and development in technology provide many more reasons for us to meet regularly and share experiences. Schools will barely cope with the task of educating our children and grandchildren. There will be many people who need a club like Melb PC in order to learn and share learning experiences. Some for purely social reasons because electronic communication will never replace meeting at the club house or place of work.

So, this I will predict. Melbourne PC User Group "*will*" have its 50th anniversary in 2034. The size, format and location of the meeting place being the only details in doubt. Our ongoing growth will be driven by a strong community spirit and the need for like minded company: the challenges to be met and the obstacles to be confronted



Gary Taig
Production Manager, Features Editor

and overcome. They exist today, they drive our current growth and they won't go away. How long before our 50th? Just thirty three years? Many of us know how quickly the last 33 years has passed.

PC Update 2001

Next year *PC Update* will be greatly improved. It will contain lots more news about the group and I'm hoping that by the end of the year we will be able to regularly publish 96 pages instead of the current 64 pages. We need more writers though, so if you have something to share please consider involvement.

Many thanks to all those wonderful people who contributed their writing skills during the last 12 months. Thanks especially to our regular writers who provide the substance upon which it's relatively easy to build a monthly magazine. Without your regular input, *PC Update* would be a lesser publication.

Starting on page 35 you will find a Christmas Shopping Ideas List. I asked many companies for a digital image and 50 – 80 words describing their hottest few products. Some obliged, most had trouble counting but they've given us quite a few good ideas. There are member discounts too, so I hope this helps your Christmas shopping adventures.

In the meantime, if you play Internet games and you're thinking of upgrading to Windows Me you'd be well advised to read Major Keary's summaries (page 10) of three current books. Major tells of a frightening and some might say, *not unexpected* feature of WinMe.

Enjoy the approaching festive season. □

Committee Portfolios

George Skarbek	President	(plus: Internet and BBS)
Dave Botherway	Vice President	(plus: Hardware and Equipment)
Bill Ford	Treasurer	
John Swale	Secretary	(plus: Rules & Procedures)

Elected committee members and their allocated portfolios.

Roswitha Aigner	Membership coordinator
Ray Beatty	Monthly meetings
Margaret Brown	PC Update & Seniors magazine
Bill Dair	Monthly meetings assistant
Ian Dewhurst	Library & assisting with swap meets
David King	Swap meet coordinator
Barry Martin	Training
Noel Peters	SIGs & Branches

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Freedom of Speech, Internet Censorship and an Interview with Ann K Symons

Monika Merkes

The Australian Library & Information Association and Electronic Frontiers Australia Inc. jointly sponsored a forum on Internet censorship on 9 October 2000 in Melbourne: "Filtering the Internet: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly". Ann K Symons, one of three speakers at the forum, is a librarian from Alaska. She spoke on "U.S. Libraries and the Internet: The Roller Coaster Years".

In her presentation, Ann Symons said that there is nothing good about filtering the Internet, except perhaps that it gives parents a choice to use filtering software. The "bad" aspect is that filters are not very effective in filtering out the information they claim to filter, and they also filter out some useful information. The "ugly" side of Internet censorship is that filters are used in publicly funded institutions.

In 1996, 40% of U.S. public libraries provided Internet access, in 1998 this rose to 98% and 15% of libraries used filters. In 2000, 95% of U.S. public libraries offer Internet access, one in four use filters, and one in ten filter all work stations <http://www.nclis.gov/news/pr2000/plis2000.html>. Ann noted that this is a legally questionable position, as freedom of speech is protected in the U.S. by the First Amendment¹, the only exceptions being obscenity and child pornography. Hate speech, for example, is protected by the First Amendment.

In 1996, the Communications Decency

Act was introduced in the U.S. Anybody who provided indecent information would be criminally liable under this legislation. However, the Act was challenged by the American Library Association, and in June 1997 the Supreme Court decided in favour of the ALA <http://www.epic.org/cda/>. The U.S. Congress has tried to pass laws which tie filtering to funding for public Internet access but has been unsuccessful.

Ann commented that there is great pressure in the U.S. from politicians to protect children, which is in conflict with the value of free speech. She argued in favour of local control, for local communities to make local decisions. To support public libraries and schools in this, the ALA has developed an Internet toolkit with advice and strategies how to manage Internet access in the library <http://www.ala.org/pio/internettoolkit/>.

I interviewed Ann K Symons after the forum. The following is a condensed version of the interview.

MM: *You obviously have a passion about these issues. How did you develop that passion? When did you first get involved with these issues?*

AKS: I think that like all librarians the values of intellectual freedom and access to information is something that's very deeply embedded in the library profession and you learn them in library school. If you do a survey of



Ann K Symons is the past President of the American Library Association (ALA). She has chaired ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee, is currently a member of the Freedom to Read Foundation Board, and the 2000 winner of the Robert B. Downs Intellectual Freedom Award. Symons is the author of numerous articles and the co-author of "Protecting the right to read: A how-to-do-it manual for school and public librarians" (Neal Schuman) and co-editor of "Speaking out: Voices in Celebration of intellectual freedom" (ALA Editions).

librarians, issues of intellectual freedom always come to the top, and I think that for me it was when we had a challenge to a book in our community. And that book was "Daddy's room mate", a simple picture book with a homosexual theme, about a child who has two fathers. The child is from a divorced family and lives with his father and his

¹ The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances" <http://199.183.110.96/first/>.

father's partner. We bought that book for all of our elementary schools.

We have an active gay and lesbian population, we have children of gays and lesbians in all of our schools. We just started a fire storm. That was a community event that went on for almost a year, before the school board decided that we would keep the book in our schools, that it had educational value. And at the end of the year I think I was a changed person. Not changed, but certainly it tests your values, and you have to decide where you're really going to fall in this intellectual freedom continuum. I had enough material from this challenge that it was the impetus for me to write a book which was called "Protecting the right to read", a how-to-do-it manual for school and public librarians. So that was really how I got interested in this challenge in our community.

The interesting thing was, well, you challenge books in public schools and in the public library, the public library first. The public library chose to keep the book, and then people said the public library has it so we don't want it in our schools.

MM: *I was going to ask you about the differences and the similarities between Australia and the U.S., and some of that has already been covered by you and the other speakers.*

AKS: Well, I'm not positive about an analogy, but it's clear to me that the laws are slightly different, as they are in all countries, that libraries here are providing open access to the Internet without a problem, without some of the problems that we have in the U.S. We have very vocal, very strong mainly Christian fundamentalist groups in the U.S. who feel that their mission is to protect everybody, not just themselves and their own children.

MM: *Is there anything else you'd like to talk about, anything you'd like to say to the readers of PC Update?*

AKS: I think that where we need to put our energy is in educating people about being good news researchers, and

Further reading on freedom of speech and Internet censorship:

- On 1 January 2000, the Broadcasting Services Amendment (Online Services) Act 1999 (available through <http://scaleplus.law.gov.au/>) came into effect in Australia.
- **Electronic Frontiers Australia** <http://www.efa.org.au/> provides background information and views on the legislation.
- **NetAlert** is an Internet community advisory body recently established by the Australian Government. <http://www.netalert.net.au/>
- **American Library Association Office for Intellectual Freedom.** <http://www.ala.org/oif.html>
- **Freedom to Read Foundation.** <http://www.ftrf.org>
- **Global Internet Liberty Campaign.** <http://www.gilc.org/speech/report/>
- **Electronic Frontier Foundation.** Blue Ribbon Campaign. <http://www EFF.org/blueribbon.html>

what the Internet is and what it isn't. To me it's teaching kids to be critical thinkers, kids and adults to be critical thinkers. This is a new medium, for many of us it has opened the doors to information that we never would have access to, and that's the good part. I think that what we will see more in the future is the provision of content by libraries, of their collections, of their primary resources. Now you can sit anywhere in Australia, in Alaska and go to the Library of Congress, primary source material. I think the Internet has changed the way we live and it's going to change the way we live. Five years from now, you ask a five year old, a six year old, an eight year old, they won't remember a time when there was not an Internet, when there wasn't e-mail.

MM: *Is the role of libraries changing now?*

AKS: No, I think the role of libraries is not changing, because I think that libraries do what they've always done best, and that's to organise information and to help people navigate through the Internet, particularly if you're a new user. Libraries in the U.S. provide classes. And I think that often also libraries in the U.S. are providing access from home. I think that one of the things that libraries have done very well is provide a starting place for the Internet for people.

MM: *On behalf of the Melbourne PC User Group, thank you.*

In January 2001 it will be one year since the Broadcasting Services Amendment (Online Services) Act 1999 — the Internet censorship legislation in Australia — came into effect.

In the next issue of *PC Update* I will look at what impact the legislation has had in its first 12 months, and what Melbourne PC User Group members think about Internet censorship. Please tell me your views by e-mail to monika@melbpc.org.au, or participate in the newsgroup discussion at melbpc.general.

About the Author:

Monika Merkes, monika@melbpc.org.au has worked in the health and human services sector over the last ten years, and recently "retired" temporarily to work on her doctoral thesis in public health. □

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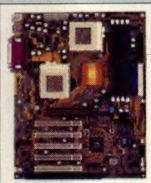


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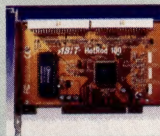
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Windows Me Resources

Major Keary

Windows Me comes without a printed manual; Microsoft expects users to get all the guidance they need from a less than effective online help system. The screens are short on technical detail, don't provide illustrations or examples, and could never be described as verbose. For those who need something better here is a selection of recently published Windows Me titles. It is worth noting that authors are somewhat muted in their collective enthusiasm for WinMe.

Windows Millennium — The Missing Manual

David Pogue teamed up with O'Reilly to fill the *missing manual* gap, a phenomenon that is becoming more frequent as software vendors abandon printed documentation. Titles in the series are of a consistently high standard in respect of content, presentation, and design — right down to the lay-flat binding.

The author draws attention to the Microsoft "Software License Agreement" which advises purchasers not to use WinMe in "nuclear facilities, aircraft navigation, direct life-support machines, or weapons systems".

Potential users may find of more concern that, if using WinMe's Internet games

feature, information about their PCs is covertly sent to Microsoft; users, by the fact of buying the product, give MS permission for use of that information.

If you are thinking of changing to WinMe, or buying new equipment with it preloaded, this title is highly recommended as pre-purchase reading. WinMe may have attractive features, but it is still built on old foundations; David Pogue brings to light many issues that are worth considering before going WinMe.

The book is intended to provide users at all levels of technical knowledge and experience with the kind of information they would expect from a proper manual, including troubleshooting solutions.

This is an excellent example of technical communication. The book is compact, which makes it all the more useful because it is easy to keep close at hand — and the lay-flat binding is so convenient. It is comprehensive, covering the topics that will be of interest — and necessary — to both new and experienced users.

There are six parts:

The Desktop, which tells you about the things that show up on the screen;

Components of WinMe, covers commonly used applications such as browser, e-mail, word processors, etc. with information about moving data between them, creating files, and so on;

Windows Online deals with Internet features and how to set up various services;

Plug-ins tells you about hardware extras that can be used with your PC (scanners, printers, etc.) and how to solve installation problems;

Networking describes how to set up a small network suitable for home or small office application; and *Appendices* that

address WinMe installation issues and an explanatory list of menus and commands.

If you have decided to migrate to WinMe, this is the manual you are sure to find the most useful. It is practical, well illustrated with screen shots that support the text, information is easy to find, and procedures are laid out step-by-step for easy guidance.

David Pogue: *Windows Millennium — The Missing Manual*
ISBN 0-596-00009-X
Published by Pogue Press/O'Reilly,
413 pp., RRP \$39.95

WinMe for Dummies

Windows Me for Dummies is written in the inimitable Dummies style. This is a very good launch pad for beginners; there is no assumption that readers have any prior knowledge about computers or Windows. In keeping with the series' style, technical terms are kept to a minimum. The book is in parts, an introduction, using WinMe, a general help section, and a collection of useful tips and other information.

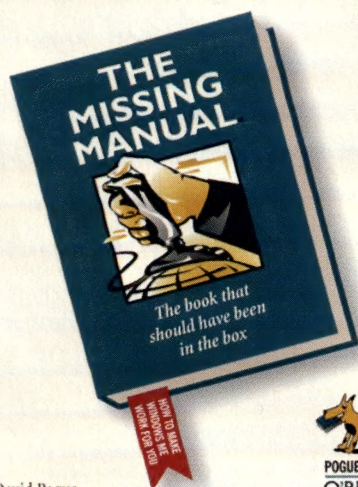
The introductory part explains what WinMe is and does, describes the main components of your computer, and helps new users find their way around the system (how to use the mouse, clicking, what the cursor looks like, the desktop, drivers, and so on).

Part 2 explains the buttons, bars, boxes, etc., cut-and-paste, and customising WinMe.

Part 3 is about using applications, and understanding the desktop, *Explorer*, and *My Computer*. The software that comes as part of the WinMe package is described, and a chapter explains the fundamentals of using the Internet.

Part 4 explains what the error messages mean, how to solve problems, and making use of the online help system.

Windows Millennium



David Pogue



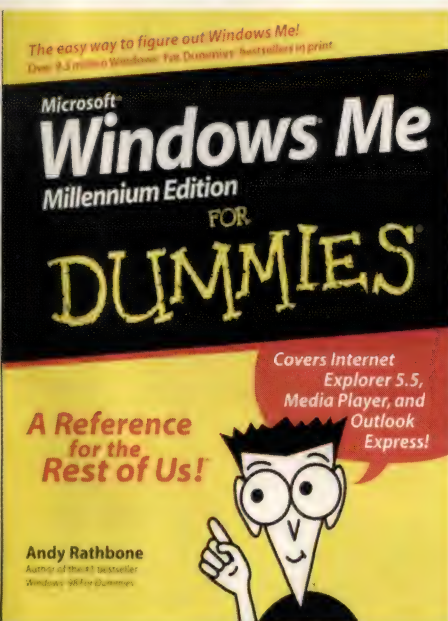
Part 5 is a collection of brief notes on a series of topics. New features in WinMe, *ten aggravating things about WinMe and how to fix them*, a list of add-on options, an explanation of the Windows icons, ten FAQs, installation notes, and a glossary. Of note is a tip on playing online games: "Windows Me's Internet games don't care for firewalls or proxy servers ...", which may have something to do with the matter of collecting information about a user's system and sending it back to Microsoft.

Recommended to anyone who wants to get up and running with WinMe from scratch; the information is brief, to the point, and accompanied by useful notes, warnings, and tips. The depth of technical information is quite good, but the focus is on providing the kind of thing that new users need, in plain language, at an affordable price.

Andy Rathbone: *Window Me for Dummies*
ISBN 0-7645-0735-4
Published by IDG, 386 pp.,
RRP \$29.95 incl. GST

Windows Me Bible

Books in the IDG *Bible* series concentrate on practical rather than theoretical issues, and presenting information covering the full gamut of things that users may want to do. The tutorial style of *Windows Me Bible* works well, offering in-depth coverage of WinMe's features for beginners through to advanced users.



WinMe has some good multimedia tools and the *Bible* offers comprehensive and detailed guidance for users who want to make the most of them.

For those who like to customise their systems all the necessary information about WinMe's new features is presented. There is also substantial and extensive coverage of Internet issues, including Internet phone and modem installation.

The book is in parts. Part 1 is entitled, *Know This or Suffer*, which is a pretty good description. It contains the essential knowledge a user must have, beginning with turning on the machine, to run WinMe.

Part 2 is a substantial (some 250 pages) coverage of using the Internet, from modems through to online games.

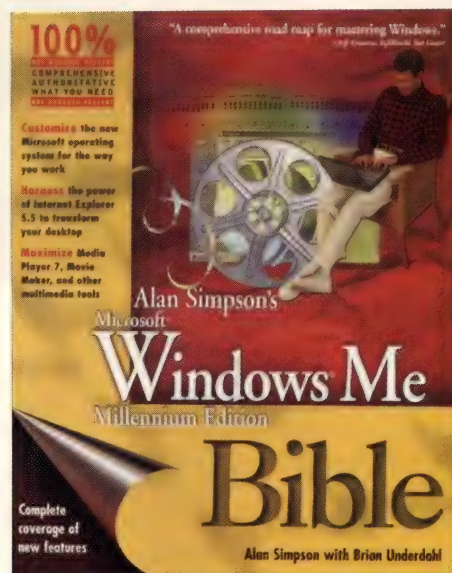
Part 3 is to do with housekeeping. How to copy, delete, and move files; customising the desktop; using the mouse, keyboard, and other input devices; and organising a virtual office.

Part 4 covers Windows' accessories, from the calculator, Notepad, character map, Paint, through to using *Scrap*, which is an enhanced clipboard facility. A chapter deals with printing and fonts, and other chapters deal with sound and music; enhanced TV, DVD, and video; digital images; and Windows *Movie Maker*. A final chapter in this part is called, *Road Warrior Tools and Techniques*, and is quite a good coverage of mobile computing issues.

Part 5 is about maintenance and system enhancement: install and remove software; install and remove hardware; upgrading; multiple monitors; and managing multiple users.

Part 6 is quite a good introduction to networking and describes how to install and use a LAN.

Part 7 is called *Advanced Stuff* and covers a range of topics: icons, associations, and properties; the Registry; and the *Windows Scripting Host* (for which readers really need some knowledge of JScript, JavaScript, or VBScript).



Simpson and Underdahl: *Windows Me Bible*
ISBN 0-7645-3489-0
Published by IDG, 947 pp.,
RRP \$59.95 inc. GST

Which One?

If you are a raw beginner, just taking a new computer out of its box, then I suggest starting with the *Dummies* book. For the price it is a good investment, but you will need something else as your skill level develops.

If you have used an earlier version of Windows, I suggest the *Missing Manual*, which is also a valuable reference for anyone manning a help desk or otherwise advising WinMe users. Information is easy to find, and it concentrates on fundamental operations. For anyone who uses WinMe for much-of-the-day-every-day, it is — at least, in my opinion — the essential reference. After all, it is the *manual* that should have been in the box.

Want heavy-duty detail in tutorial format? The *WinMe Bible* should be considered, particularly if you use WinMe for business purposes, or all that Multimedia stuff.

There is a wealth of literature on the shelves, so some time browsing is well worth the effort. □

Microsoft's .NET

Barry Simon

Microsoft's plan for the future is a vision, a plan and a mishmash. From various announcements and presentations, I believe there is a pony buried in that pile of horse manure but alas some parts of the company are so taken with the buzz around the term that everything has become a .NET even if it is distant from the true vision.

About every seven years Microsoft reinvents itself — not totally since it keeps the old stuff in place suitably evolved towards the new strategy. In 1975, Microsoft started out as a supplier of computer languages. In 1981, it took advantage of IBM's offer to become the DOS company and in the years around 1990, it morphed to the Windows company. In 1996, it embraced the Web, later than some nimble newcomers but earlier than the other big guys and in an aggressive way that remade the company. I believe that we'll look back on .NET as a similar tectonic shift in the way Microsoft operates. And make no mistake: it is Microsoft's ability to reinvent itself that has caused it to thrive while the Novells and Word Perfects of the world have floundered.

While the official explanations obscure some of the key issues, I believe there are three basic concepts in play:

- centralized user data storage
- the programmable web
- a shift to software as a subscription service

Take e-mail — please. You access it from the office, from home and on the road. From the messages that I get as the occasional Outlook columnist for Woody's Office Watch I know that many you have problems juggling where mail is stored as you move from place to place. What we really need are ubiquitous really fast Web connections and a place on the web to store our data accessible in some transparent way over the Web. In some ways, this is already

there for some. For example I know people on Exchange Server at work which they then access from home and haltingly while on the road. Or there are people using Visto on the Web to synch their appointments from different places. But these are ad hoc solutions for only some data. Clearly, we need infrastructure — both the availability of better remote disk services and the OS support to make their access transparent. That's the promise of centralized data storage.

With cgi, perl, VB Script, Java Script, Jave, ActiveX and Active Server Pages, you may wonder how anyone can talk about the programmable Web as vision rather than reality but those languages and technologies are about programmable Web pages, not the programmable Web. There is still no standard for exchange of information between Web sites so that, a site like Yodlee has to do its magic by ad hoc agreements with each site it scarfs data from. XML has been a work in progress now for several years and everyone agrees that it will be the plumbing below interpage programming but beyond that there is jockeying for the standard. Microsoft and IBM have embraced SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol). Beyond ways for sites to exchange information programmatically, Microsoft's .NET programming model involves new paradigms for cross language programming.


If data is moved from local machines to the Web, can programs be far behind? The third prong of Microsoft's vision is software that you run over the Web. Once the software is there, the software vendor has the kind of control it can't have so easily with programs on your local machine. Some specialized software currently requires an annual license fee. There is run protection built into the product so it stops working if an annual fee is not paid but the model is regarded as heavy handed and only

works in specific markets. A shift to a new model of online usage that a given user can access from anywhere could easily be accompanied by a switch to a subscription model which has long been Microsoft's dream. As programs become feature rich, upgrades become less attractive and revenue streams to vendors become less certain. The switch to subscriptions is the answer to a software vendor's prayers. I think Microsoft may be surprised to find a reluctance of much of its customer base to be willing to make such a shift!

The first two of these elements are evolutionary in that some parts of each are present in most products that Microsoft already produces. Thus we have the absurdity that the marketing team for the latest iteration of Microsoft servers (Exchange, SQL, Commerce and 5 others) can trumpet themselves as .NET enterprise servers even though they are really very far from embracing the full .NET vision. So expect new versions of Microsoft software to have .NET added to their names whether they buy into the long term vision or not. Meanwhile, start thinking hard about how you and your company will react to a proposal for shifting to a subscription model for software for that's the one element of Microsoft's .NET vision where you and they may not see eye to eye.

About the Author

Barry Simon, a contributor to PC Magazine is also co-author of a number of Windows books including "The Mother of All Windows 98 Books".

This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer Users Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which Melb PC is a member. 

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DIGITAL CAMERA

QuickTime compatible



Best Digital Compact Camera – TIPA Awards 2000-2001



The new Coolpix 990 is a compact, super high performance 3x Zoom digital camera, ideal for capturing high quality digital images and QuickTime movies for a variety of applications.

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- Powerful, all-glass 3x Zoom-Nikkor lens
- Advanced algorithm for superior images
- Capture 320 x 240 pixel QuickTime movies

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Special Interest Group Meetings

SIG Coordinator, Noel Peters

Enhance your computing knowledge, widen your circle of friends who have similar interests and problems to solve. Melb PC membership entitles you to attend as many SIGs as you wish.

Access (Database)

access-sig@melbpc.org.au

2nd Monday

6.30 – 8.30 pm

Ian Daniels

9802 0540 AH

Assembly & Other Languages

alt-sig@melbpc.org.au

<http://www.melbpc.org.au/sig/alt>

1st Thursday

7.00 – 10.30 pm

Melb PC SIG Room

Felix Hofmann

0408 023 423 BH

9523 5400 AH

Don McKenzie

9521 3060 BH

This is a technical programming SIG not confined to specific computer languages. Bring your algorithms, your code and your questions.

Ballarat

ball-sig@melbpc.org.au

1st Thursday

7.30 – 9.45 pm

(except school holidays)

Ballarat & Clarendon College

614 Mair St, Ballarat

VicRoads map 254 L12

Ken Smith

5332 7851 BH & AH

Ballarat is a general purpose SIG, usually we have no specific topic; it suits everyone at present to let the meeting run in a direction that is topical on the night. From time to time we have a guest speaker/presenter on something of particular interest to us at the time but free form seems the norm at present.

Bendigo

bend-sig@melbpc.org.au

<http://home.primus.com.au/alistair/melbpc>

2nd Wednesday

7.30 – 10.00 pm

Girton Grammar School

105 Mackenzie St, Bendigo

(Vine Street entrance, then follow the signs)

VicRoads map 282 K14

Joe Henry

0418 374 650 BH & AH

The Bendigo SIG is a regional group of computer users based in Bendigo.

Young, old, experienced, beginners, all are catered for. Each meeting consists of some presentation where interesting, useful or helpful information is shared. Question and answer sessions are also a great help for those with computer related queries.

Clarion

clar-sig@melbpc.org.au

4th Wednesday

7.00 – 10.00 pm

Melb PC SIG Room

Roger Blackford

John Newman

5333 3391 BH

Communications

comm-sig@melbpc.org.au

<http://www.melbpc.org.au/sig/comms/>

2nd Wednesday

7.00 – 9.30 pm

Melb PC SIG Room

Philip Lew

9822 2998 BH (brief calls)

The Communications SIG focusses on all aspects of computer connectivity. Topics include modem communications (BBS and Internet dialup); Client /Server software, HTML and other Internet related topics. We also cover topics on Computer Networking (LANs and WANs) and other relevant general telecommunications issues of interest to the well connected PC user.

Daytime

day-sig@melbpc.org.au

http://members.xoom.com/day_1/

2nd Thursday

10.00 am – 12 noon

Melb PC SIG Room

Don Buchanan

9509 7119 BH & AH

Graeme Minto

9440 5030 BH & AH

Daytime SIG is very popular; we have a good mix of female and male attendees and members have expressed satisfaction with the informal nature of our presentations. The SIG suits members who prefer and are available to meet during daylight hours. A wide range of topics are presented, dependant largely upon preferences expressed by the attending members. See our Web page for information.

Digital Photo

<http://www.melbpc.org.au/sig/digip/>

3rd Monday, 7.00 pm

Melb PC SIG Room

Thom Lyons

9525 9793 BH & AH

East

east-sig@melbpc.org.au

<http://www.vicnet.net.au/~mpceast>

2nd Tuesday

7.30 – 10.00 pm

Blackburn English Speaking

Language School

120 Eley Rd. Blackburn Sth.

Melways Ref. 61 J5

Keith Beresford

9733 5044 AH

9736 2515 BH

Margaret Brown

9874 5778

East Workshop

east-ws@melbpc.org.au

<http://www.vicnet.net.au/~eastsig/workshop/>

Sunday following the East SIG meeting,

10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Blackburn English Speaking

Language School

120 Eley Rd. Blackburn Sth.

Melways Ref. 61 J5

Ken Gubbins

9898 5478 PH/FAX

The East Workshop is hands-on, practical, interactive and runs on the principle "Show me how, and I'll do it with your assistance". We handle "how to upgrade", "software doesn't run", "slow computer", "no sound, no video" problems and more. Bring your computer along.

The East Beginners Group demonstrates how to set up and maintain a computer, how to run software, scan documents, process images, sort out error messages, etc. All procedures are repeated (slowly), until members feel confident with the new knowledge.

Foothills (Boronia)

foothills-sig@melbpc.org.au

<http://www.foothills-sig.com/>

1st Sunday (except January)

1.00 pm – 3.30 pm

Progress Hall (rear entrance)

134 Boronia Road

(near Dorset Road.)

Melways map 64 K9

Bob Wise 9870 8272

Genealogy

genealog-sig@melbpc.org.au

<http://www.vicnet.net.au/~eastsig/>

genealogy@melbpc.org.au

Sunday following the East SIG meeting.

12.30 pm – 3.00 pm

Blackburn English Speaking

Language School

120 Eley Rd. Blackburn Sth.

Melways Ref. 61 J5

Bruno Dik

9733 4585

The Genealogy SIG is for those beginning genealogy and for those who are advanced but need more computer knowledge to move ahead. Members' trials, tribulations and expertise are openly discussed and freely shared in this self-help group.

Graphics

graph-sig@melbpc.org.au

3rd Monday

7.30 – 10.30 pm

Melb PC SIG Room

Yahya Abdal-Aziz

The Graphics SIG explores issues related to computer graphics software and hardware. Members provide demonstrations each month, covering areas such as paint programs, animation, graphics programming, printing, and scanning. Visitors are invited to bring along their graphics problems.

Hardware

hardware-sig@melbpc.org.au

<http://www.melbpc.org.au/sig/hw/>

3rd Wednesday

7.00 – 11.00 pm

Melb PC SIG Room

Felix Hofmann

0408 023 423 BH

9523 5400 AH

Thom Lyons

9525 9793 BH & AH

We deal with all levels of PC Hardware from chips to complete networks of computers. Members are invited to bring their questions and/or their hardware to the meeting for advice / assistance

LUBe

lube-sig@melbpc.org.au
<http://www.melbpc.org.au/sig/lube/>
3rd Thursday
7.00 – 10.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
Thom Lyons
9525 9793 BH & AH

MACE

(Melbourne Atari Computer Enthusiasts)

mace-sig@melbpc.org.au
<http://mace.atari.org/>

3rd Sunday

10.00 am – 2.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
Graham Hurford
9416 1126 AH

Roger Davies

9879 1109 BH & AH
Enquiries 0500 818 448

The Atari SIG is dedicated to the the joy of Atari. The SIG is fast, furious and action packed. We welcome all owners and former owners (we know you are out there) to visit us and join in the fun; it's a soul thing.

Music

music-sig@melbpc.org.au

2nd Thursday

7.30 – 9.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
Yahya Abdal-Aziz
Eric Best
5781 1224 AH

New Users, East

neue-sig@melbpc.org.au

2nd Tuesday

7.30 – 10.00 pm
(except January)
St Mark's Anglican Church
Cnr Canterbury & Burke Rds,
Camberwell
Melway map 45 J10
Mark Trickett
9480 6695 BH & AH
New Users, East caters for the needs of prospective and new computer users, new members having machine operating or system problems, and those new members wishing to increase their understanding of their equipment.

Northern Suburbs

north-sig@melbpc.org.au

4th Wednesday

7.00 pm – 10.00 pm
Level 1,
86 South Crescent
Northcote.
Mark Trickett
9480 6695 BH & AH

OS/2

os2-sig@melbpc.org.au

4th Tuesday (except December)

6.30 pm – 9.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

John Angelico

9544 8792 BH & AH

The OS/2 SIG offers technical and user-level support for all OS/2 users, covering all from 1.x to Warp Server for e-Business, plus native application software. Meetings feature news, software reviews, tips and tricks and the latest updates. Technical support days focus on installation and support for OS/2 applications and hardware assistance.

Programming

prog-sig@melbpc.org.au

2nd Tuesday,

7.30 – 10.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Ross Hall

5428 7497 AH
9699 4000 BH

Andrew Callaway

9619 4067 BH

Quicken

quicken-sig@melbpc.org.au

<http://viv-martin.hypermart.net/quicken.html>

4th Thursday (except Dec.)

7.00 – 9.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Viv Martin

9583 5372 BH & AH

Bob Mayston

9557 3828 BH & AH

An enjoyable and helpful evening for members interested in bookkeeping and accountancy software for personal finance, investment and small business applications.

Starting with a question time and problem solving introduction followed by a range of helpful tips and tricks with segments for both new and advanced users. Latest versions are previewed immediately they are available.

Members are invited to contribute questions and solutions from their experience. Visitors are welcome.

Retired & Interested Persons

rip-sig@melbpc.org.au

<http://www.melbpc.org.au/sig/rip/>

10.00 am – 12 noon

4th (not last) Friday

Lutheran Church,
25 Cypress Ave,
Glen Waverley
Melway map 62 A9

Ken Thomas

9884 5309 AH

Noel Peters

Teen Game

Development

youth-sig@melbpc.org.au

3rd Friday

7.30 pm

Melb PC SIG Room

Tobias Cohen

The Teen Game Development SIG focuses on game development for Under 18s with Games Factory, Klick'n'Play, MZX, Delphi, VB, Qbasic, GWBASIC, BASICA, Assembly, C, C++, Turbo C++, Visual C++, C++ Builder and more. Dedicated to teenagers interested in learning or furthering their skills in computer game development.

Video Editing (General)

video-sig@melbpc.org.au

<http://www.vicnet.net.au/~vidsig/>

4th Monday

7.00 – 9.30 pm

45 Talbot Ave, Balwyn

Melway map 46 E8

Albert Vanzet

9439 1768 BH & AH

Video Editing (Non-linear)

videonl-sig@melbpc.org.au

1st Tuesday (incl Nov)

7.30 – 10.00 pm

Melb PC SIG room

Lawrie Weston

9742 3738

Two computer video editing groups cater for the needs of Melb PC members. Their aim is to assist those who use the various hardware and software options to operate these systems and to convert their source recordings into pleasant and entertaining video productions.

The "General" SIG uses both "linear" and "non-linear" systems and discusses topics such as "the art of video and video editing" The "Non-Linear" SIG concentrates only on that form of video editing and the various effects it offers. Both groups encourage members to bring along samples of their work for discussion. Visitors are always welcome.

Warragul

warr-sig@melbpc.org.au

1st Friday

7.30 – 10.00 pm

Warragul Education Centre

Smith St, Warragul

VicRoads map 337 Q8

Doreen Gillett (Assistant Sec.)

5622 2865 AH

WASINT (Web and Software Investment Tools)

WASINT-Sig@melbpc.org.au

<http://www.melbpc.org.au/sig/WASINT/>

3rd Thursday

7.00 pm – 9.30 pm

Melb PC Top Floor SIG Room

Richard Solly

9626 7640 AH

Become more confident in the use of web and software tools as part of your financial life. Join others, both at the monthly meeting and through the online web board to share your favourite sites and information sources in the exploding field of online financial information.

Web Development

webdev-sig@melbpc.org.au

<http://www.melbpc.org.au/sig/webdev/>

4th Monday,

7.00 – 10.30 pm

Melb PC SIG Room

Thom Lyons

9525 9793 BH & AH

Web Development Workshop

webdev-sig@melbpc.org.au

2nd Saturday, 10.30 am

Melb PC SIG Room

Thom Lyons

9525 9793 BH & AH

(members may bring their own systems)

Western Suburbs

west-sig@melbpc.org.au

<http://www.angelfire.com/or/westsig>

4th Tuesday

7.00 – 9.00 pm

Our Lady's Tennis Club,
Sunshine. (near the corner
of Cornwall & Devonshire)
Melway map 26 K12

Tony Calenti 9370 8193 AH

Windows

win-sig@melbpc.org.au

1st Monday

7.00 – 9.30 pm

Melb PC SIG Room

Lynn Pollock

9598 3186 AH

9533 5002 BH

Windows 2000

<http://www.melbpc.org.au/sig/nt/>

3rd Tuesday

7.00 pm

Melb PC SIG Room

John Bade

9326 8340 BH

Keith Satterley



Changes and updates to Dave Botherway — daveb@melbpc.org.au

Holiday Information

Administration Office

Closes: Friday 22 December

Opens: Tuesday 2 January

Training Courses

See training course details on page 58, this issue.

Special Interest Groups

See details provided for individual SIGs on page 14–15 and reports page 53. Some SIG meetings are not held in Dec/Jan because of conflict with the main holidays. If in doubt, check with the SIG leader.

In addition, Thom Lyons advises that his *Web Development Workshop*, scheduled for Saturday 13 January will not be held.

Dial Help

If you need assistance during the main holiday break, please consider that Dial Help volunteers may have heavier than usual family commitments and apart from that, they also need a holiday. If you must call someone, please try to keep it brief. □



PC Update Themes and Deadlines 2001

Month & Theme	Submissions	Advertising Bookings	Adv. Copy
February Back to Basics	4 January	8 January	11 January
March Data Security and Integrity	1 February	5 February	8 February
April Computer Security	1 March	5 March	8 March
May e-Commerce	29 March	2 April	5 April
June Mobile & Wireless Computing	3 May	7 May	10 May
July Picture & Sound	31 May	4 June	7 June
August Programming Languages	28 June	2 July	5 July
September Networking and Internetworking	2 August	6 August	9 August
October Alternative Operating Systems	30 August	3 September	6 September
November Computing Applications	20 September	1 October	4 October
December To be decided...	1 November	5 November	8 November

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- Certificate in Professional Web Development

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The Final Word on PC

Letter to the Editor

I received my copy of October *PC Update* and was surprised to find an article on Prostate Cancer. Well written and informative, it gave very good advice re the necessity for regular blood test scans for Prostate Specific Antigen. PSA readings give an indication of the health of your Prostate gland, although a raised reading can be due to factors other than cancer.

Then I read on and found another article on general health sites, and was dismayed to read a statement recommending only getting PSA scans if you are actually suffering symptoms, and quoting the Victorian Government Better Health site as the authority. Can't be true, I thought, so I went to the Web site and there found the following pearler:

"Prostate cancer screening. Prostate cancer is a malignant lump of tissue that grows in the prostate gland. It generally occurs in men over the age of 65. In two thirds of cases, it is not life threatening. Most men who have prostate cancer die of an unrelated cause".

What this actually says is that in *one third* of cases it *is* life threatening. And I can tell you from personal experience that you can have prostate cancer to a stage where your treatment options begin to be restricted, *without any noticeable signs*.

It is true that some 40% of men will die *with* Prostate Cancer (but not *of* Prostate Cancer) but it is certainly one of the biggest killers of men. And you don't have to be 65 or over to get it. I am under 60, and I am aware of two cases amongst my colleagues of men in their early 40s with it.

If PC is detected early enough, there is a range of treatment from which you can select, including radical surgery,


brachytherapy, external beam ray, cryogenics and even watchful waiting — although I cannot understand how any man who has cancer could decide to do nothing, unless of advanced age.

Brachytherapy was my choice, but it may not be yours. It is relatively new and expensive, but the survival rates at 10 years are the same as for the radical surgery, and with much reduced side effects. Just keep it in mind as an option if you do ever have to make this decision, especially if you are over 60.

PC is slow growing in the main. But the main point is, if you detect it early enough you can make choices of what is right for you. Once the cancer cells spread outside the gland, you really only have only hormones, external beam and prayer.

I could delve into the subject in more depth, but this is not the place. If anyone has a genuine desire to learn more about brachytherapy, feel free to email me directly. I am not in the medical profession, but can give you a learned patient's perspective on it.

However, the message I really want to reinforce is that blood test (PSA) screening is very useful in most cases. And the rate of change of PSA reading can be more telling than the actual reading, which is why you need to have tests at regular intervals. It is not perfect, but is the best we have, especially when augmented with digital examination. Unless you want to be one of the "*only one-third*" of men to die of their Prostate Cancer, and if you are over 50, have the PSA blood test done yearly. If you are over 30, have it done at least five yearly to give some background data against which to assess your later annual tests.

Neil Pogson, pogo@melbpc.org.au 

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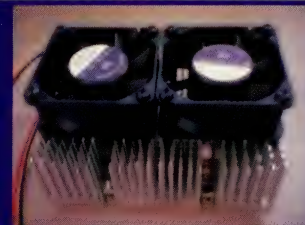
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Tracking Your Shares Getting More Out Of Quicken

Deanna Ross

Quicken's share tracking features are not as well known or utilised as its other functions. Accounting capability and GST readiness have stolen the limelight and the need for compliance in these areas is driving the current focus. However, the latest version of Quicken (version 8 — now called *Personal*, *Personal Plus* or *Cashbook*), as well as the previous version (version 7 — *Standard*, *Deluxe* or *Quicken for Business*), both contain a very useful module for monitoring share investments. The software not only tracks market values, but also has the ability to effectively evaluate performance.

Performance

Performance is what it's all about! Let's look at several ways Quicken evaluates performance.

1. %Gain/Loss is a performance measure which compares the change in market value (since purchase) to the original purchase amount. Here we're really referring to the *Percent unrealized gain or loss*. (Fig. 1). You'll find this defined in Quicken's Help text together with an example.

$$\text{Percent unrealised gain or loss} = \left[\frac{P - C}{C} \right] \times 100$$

Where:
P = current price per share
C = average cost per share

Figure 1.

It's also the same thing as in Fig. 2.

$$\left[\frac{\text{Market Value} - \text{Cost Basis}}{\text{Cost Basis}} \right] \times 100$$

Figure 2.

This is not an annualised figure. That is, it is **not** a percentage per annum, but an absolute percentage change between purchase date and a subsequent date. It is a useful performance measure, but cannot be compared to any annualised figure such as a bank's interest rate on term deposits. It is readily accessible in Quicken's *Portfolio View* window, choosing the *Holdings View*. (If you do not find it there you can customize this view to include a %Gain/Loss column.)

2. ROI%, Percent Return on Investment, (Fig. 3 & 4) is a performance measure which compares the growth in market value plus dividends received plus sale income from partial sales to the amount of the original investment. This calculation includes earnings. (You'll also find Quicken's definition of *Percent Return on Investment* in the Help text together with an example.)

$$\text{Percent ROI} = \left[\frac{R}{I} \right] \times 100$$

Where:
R = Dollars Returned
I = Dollars Invested Excluding Reinvestments

Figure 3.

which is the same thing as...

$$\left[\frac{V - I + D + S}{I} \right] \times 100$$

Where:
V = Market Value
I = Dollars Invested Excluding Reinvestments
D = Divident Income
S = Sale Income

Figure 4.

The ROI% calculation, like the %Gain/Loss, produces a percentage figure which is not annualised and which bears no relationship to the period of time being considered. ROI% is useful

At the August meeting of the Quicken SIG, Deanna Ross presented and discussed some of Quicken's features that she uses in tracking the performance of her share portfolio, in particular the Investment Performance Report. Deanna demonstrated how to enter investment transactions using categories of one's own choice, and a different method of handling Franked Dividends and Imputation Credits. This article conveys the essence of her presentation. Deanna's recommendations are suggestions only, based on the benefits she has gained from using them herself. Try them out if you wish. Whether you use them or not, in Deanna's experience Quicken can still provide you with very useful information about your investments.

because it reflects dividend and sale earnings as well as any change in market value. This measure is also readily available in Quicken's *Portfolio View* window, choosing the *Performance View*. (Again, if you do not find it there you can customize the view to include a column for ROI.)

Comparing these performance measures, **%Gain/Loss** reflects a change in the share price, whereas **ROI%** includes the effect of dividend earnings as well as a change in the share price.

I need to digress for a moment to explain why I do not recommend using any of Quicken's Reinvestment actions. Not using these will have an effect on the %ROI to the extent that Reinvestments will now not be excluded from the denominator of the above formula (Fig 3 or 4). I prefer to enter each Reinvestment as a dividend first and then a purchase, as this is what actually happens. I've found two inconsistencies in Quicken's Reinvestment actions:

Average annual total return
The formula Quicken uses is:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} cf_i \cdot (1+r)^{((t_i-t_0)/365)} - 1$$

where:

cf_i = cash flow amount of the i th transaction
 t_0 = date of the i th transaction in days
 n = number of transactions for this security in the report range
 t_i = number of days in the report range
 r = rate of interest (solving for r)

a) the market value at the **beginning** date,
b) all dividends, interest, reinvestments, purchases and sales between the two dates and the timing of these, and
c) the market value at the **end** date.
The formula (Fig 5) is complicated, but Quicken handles it well.

I find this performance measure extremely valuable, because it is an annualised figure. This means I can compare the performance of a share, of all my shares, of a selection of shares, of a particular portfolio, with any other annualised figure like a bank's interest rate on term deposits, the All Ordinaries Index, the performance of a fund or funds, or a fund manager, or even with the performance of the same share over a different period. Also the periods compared can be different lengths of time. The annualised rate I get enables me to make meaningful comparisons and therefore decisions.

(Again, you'll find a definition and an example in the Help text.)

Because it is referenced by *two* selected dates, the Portfolio View can't display the AARR. However, the **Investment Performance Report** (Fig 6) produces the AARR figure for us and shows the information used in performing the calculation. I have compared this calculation several times with Excel's XIRR function (the internal rate of return for a series of cash flows) using the same investment figures, and Quicken and Excel have returned the same answer every time, to two decimal places. (Be aware that Excel's XIRR rate is for a 360 day year. This implies that we should multiply Quicken's AARR percentage figure by 360 and divide by 365.)

Example

I buy 2000 shares in XYZ Limited at \$4.90 per share on 18/4/2000. Total investment including Stamp Duty and Brokerage is \$9,844.10. On 4/10/2000 I receive a cash dividend of \$380.00 (which, for the time being only, I will enter as unfranked). I record the daily closing price of XYZ: on 31/10/2000 the share price is \$5.35.

The **%Gain/Loss** for XYZ on 31/10/2000 is **8.69%** since purchase.
The **ROI%** for XYZ on 31/10/2000 is **12.47%** since purchase.
The **AARR** for XYZ for the period 18/4/2000 to 31/10/2000 is **24.77% per annum**.

Shares

31/10/00

Investment Performance Report

18/04/00 Through 31/10/00 (in Aus. Dollars)

Page 1

Date	Action	Description	Investments	Returns	Avg. Annual Tot. Return
18/04/00 - 31/10/00					
17/04/00		Beg Mkt Val	0.00		
18/04/00	BuyX	2,000 XYZ Shares	9,844.10		
04/10/00	DivUF	XYZ Shares		380.00	
31/10/00		End Mkt Val		10,700.00	
TOTAL 18/04/00 - 31/10/00			9,844.10	11,080.00	24.77%

Figure 6. Investment Performance Report.

If I had bought the same number of XYZ shares for the same price but at an earlier date, say 15/11/1999, then on 31/10/2000 the %Gain/Loss would still be 8.69% and the ROI would still be 12.47%. However, the **AARR would now be 13.12% per annum** for the period 15/11/1999 to 31/10/2000, assuming there had been no other dividends in the period.

Each of these performance measures conveys useful, though different information. The Average Annual Rate of Return is the one that interests me most. If I look at it for several date ranges (say 1/7/2000 to today; 1/1/2000 to today; and the previous 12 months to today) on a regular basis (weekly, monthly and/or quarterly etc), it enables me to evaluate the ongoing performance of one share or of my whole portfolio in relation to what else I could do with my money.

Provisos

I need to qualify my remarks so far. Firstly, the Investment Performance Report is not able to calculate **large** annualized rates of return for **short**

periods. If your share produces a sizeable return over a few days or weeks, or even a couple of months, then if the annualised figure is greater than 10,000% or less than -99.9% the AARR will be returned as NA meaning "Not Available". Also, any figure over a short period, whether it be high or low, could be very misleading because annualisation assumes the share or shares are going to keep earning the same rate for a whole year. You need to be especially aware of this if you are using a calculation of the AARR from a short period for decision-making. The figure becomes more meaningful as the time interval being assessed lengthens and approaches 12 months or longer.

Secondly, since accurate share prices for the beginning and ending dates are fundamental for accurate Investment Performance Reports and therefore AARR figures, the more comprehensive the history of share prices you maintain the better. Share prices can be entered manually or easily downloaded from Quicken's Web site on a regular basis. When you "update" share prices once a week you download closing prices for the previous five working days into all

Securities in your Quicken file for which you have entered an ASX symbol. Accurate and consistent dates are also important when recording purchases, sales and dividends.

Some Important Issues

Now we specifically address three issues:

A) Quicken provides a set of standard Investment Categories that are *hard-wired* to certain Actions. For example, Quicken places entries created by the Action **Div** into a predetermined category called **_DivInc** which you cannot change.

Suggestion: *Design your own Investment Categories.*

B) Quicken grosses up Franked Dividends, so that once these are entered, reports are unable to show the franking component and the imputation component separately.

Suggestion: *Enter these components separately into the categories you have designed.*

C) Quicken also treats the Imputation Credit part of a Franked Dividend as an expense, whereas technically it should be transferred to an asset account where it stays until tax is assessed, at which time the imputation credit is taken up as a tax rebate.

Suggestion: *After entering this expense, transfer it to an asset account so that the Profit & Loss Statement, the Balance Sheet and Investment Performance Report are all correct.*

In order to use these suggestions, you will need to record **Buy**, **Sell** and **Dividend** transactions as follows. Break each transaction into its components and enter them separately one at a time. Create **Buy** and **Sell** transactions as you normally do. Create **all** income transactions, one at a time as **Miscellaneous Income** (MiscInc or MiscIncX) and create all expense transactions as **Miscellaneous Expense** (MiscExp or MiscExpX). You can enter these directly into the transaction lines of the Investment Register if you are familiar with the way Quicken works.

31/10/00 - MYQFILE		Category & Transfer List		Page 1
Category	Type	Tax	Description	
CapGnDst	Inc	Tax	Capital Gain Dist (Quicken preset ...	
Div	Inc	Tax	Dividends	
1	Sub	Tax	Franked Dividends	
FrDivC	Sub	Tax	Franked Dividend Class C	
ImpAmtC	Sub	Tax	Imputation Amount Class C	
2	Sub	Tax	Unfranked Dividends	
UnfrDiv	Sub	Tax	Unfranked Dividends	
3	Sub	Tax	Foreign Dividends	
DivIncFrgrn	Sub	Tax	Foreign Dividend Income	
4	Sub	Tax	Other Taxable Dividends	
DivIncOtT	Sub	Tax	Other Taxable Div Income	
DivInc	Inc	Tax	Dividends (Quicken preset cat...	
DivIncNA	Inc	Tax	Non Assessable Dividend Income	
TaxDefDiv	Sub	Tax	Tax-Deferred Dividend	
TaxFreeDiv	Sub	Tax	Tax Free Dividend	
DivIncTaxFree	Inc	Tax	Tax-Free Dividend (Quicken preset...	
DivIncUnFranked	Inc	Tax	Unfranked Dividend (Incls TFN Amts) (Q...	
IntInc	Inc	Tax	Investment Interest Inc from shares (Qu...	
IntIncTaxFree	Inc	Tax	Tax-Free Inv Interest Inc (Quicken pres...	
OthCapGnDst	Inc	Tax	Other Capital Gain Dist (Quicken pres...	
RisdGain	Inc	Tax	Realised Gain/Loss (Quicken prese...	
UnrlsdGain	Inc	Tax	Unrealised Gain/Loss (Quicken pres...	
Accrued Int	Expns	Tax	Accrued Interest	
Frgrn Tax Credit	Expns	Tax	Foreign Tax Credit	
IntExp	Expns	Tax	Investment Interest Exp (Quicken preset ...	
Tax Credit	Expns	Tax	Tax (Imputation) Credits	
TFNdeduct	Expns	Tax	TFN Amounts Withheld (Quicken preset c...	
[Cheque]	Bank		Business Cheque Account	
[Shares]	Invst		Share Portfolio	

Figure 7. Category & Transfer List.

Or use the Easy Actions drop-down menu and Record Income Event to enter each income component via the **Miscellaneous Income** field. Once you have tabbed out of this field a category box will be revealed *that will allow you to choose your own category and even class*. Similarly, use the Easy Actions drop-down menu and **Miscellaneous Expense** to enter an expense component (such as the Tax Credit “expense” part of a franked dividend) into the category of your choice.

Design your own Categories

A) Design your own Investment Categories.

The way Categories are set up determines how useful your Business and Investment Reports are. So I suggest you create your own investment categories and leave Quicken’s predetermined ones alone. In addition, by creating subcategories within categories, your reports will provide you with subtotals for each subcategory as well as with an overall total for each parent category. Fig. 7 (opposite) shows part of a Category List showing, as an example a selection of Investment Income and Expense Categories. Note the way each subcategory appears indented below its parent on the list. Keep the Category Name field as brief as possible to avoid report formatting problems, especially when nesting subcategories. The Category Description field can be longer. Now you can modify categories to suit the way you (or your accountant) want to see your reports.

Enter Components Separately

B) Enter dividend and distribution components separately into the categories you have designed.

Let’s go back to the example from the beginning. Enter the *individual components* of the dividend into categories of your own choice.

The following dividend payment statement (Fig. 8) shows the break up of the \$380.00 paid on 4/10/2000.

Class Description	Dividend Rate	Number of Shares	Franked Amount	Unfranked Amount	Total Dividend
Ordinary Shares	19 cents	2000	\$133.00	\$247.00	\$380.00
Net Dividend					\$380.00
Imputed Credit					\$68.52

Figure 8. Dividend Payment Statement.

Although Quicken tries to enter all this information in one box, you will soon see the benefit of entering each component of the distribution separately:

- 1. Record an Income Event:**
Miscellaneous Income of **\$133.00**
Category **_DivInc:1:FrDivC**
– credit the Cheque Account
- 2. Record an Income Event:**
Miscellaneous Income of **\$68.52**
Category **_DivInc:1:ImpAmtC**
- 3. Miscellaneous Expense:**
Miscellaneous Expense of **\$68.52**
Category **_Tax Credit**
- 4. Record an Income Event:**
Miscellaneous Income of **\$247.00**
Category **_DivInc:2:UnfDiv**
– credit the Cheque Account

It is important to understand why this “entry” requires four transactions:

- 1. The Franked Amount of the dividend component needs to be entered on its own so that you can keep track of this amount *separately from* the Imputation amount.
- 2. The amount of the Imputation Credit must be *added* to the Franked Amount to determine your Gross Income, so here you enter the Imputation amount *separately* as an income component.

So far, Gross Income = Franked Dividend + Imputation Amount.

- 3. Since you don’t actually receive any money for the Imputation amount at the time you receive the dividend, you

need to deduct the Imputation amount now by creating a *Tax Credit expense* equal to the Imputation amount, *so that the correct actual amount received is deposited in your bank account*. Also, if you want to get a *meaningful AARR* from the Investment Performance Report, you will want to include only the amount that actually goes into the bank in the calculations. If you don’t create the Tax Credit expense in Quicken, you will be overstating your share’s AARR figure. Remember, you want to be able to compare your share’s AARR figure with other rates (for example, a bank interest rate) which are all *before tax* rates. The Imputation amount itself is an *after tax* benefit which happens at a later date and is *different for every taxpayer*.

- 4. The Unfranked Amount of the dividend component needs to be entered on its own so that you can keep track of this amount *separately from* the other amounts.

So now,

Gross Income = Franked Amount + Imputation Amount + Unfranked Amount

and

Banked Amount = Franked Amount + Imputation Amount - Imputation Amount + Unfranked Amount.

- Quicken will now report the Gross Income in the Income part of the Profit & Loss Statement as a total, and it will also show sub-totals for Franked Amounts, Imputation Amounts and Unfranked Amounts. (Section (c) following will deal with the Expense part of the Profit & Loss Statement.)
- The relevant Bank Account will now



- Quicken's AARR and Investment Performance Report will use the correct Banked Amount in their calculations.

Fig. 10 shows the *Investment Performance Report* for the period 18/4/2000 to 31/10/2000 now that we've entered each component of the dividend separately.

Transfer the Imputation Tax Credit Expense

C) Transfer the Imputation Tax Credit Expense to an Asset Account so that it doesn't appear as an expense in the Profit & Loss Statement but so that it still forms part of the correct AARR calculation in the Investment Performance Report.

This is done simply by activating two memorised transactions. Steps 1 to 9 below set this up, and have to be done once only.

1. Add a new asset account with the name *Shrs Imp Creds* and description *Share Imputation Credits*.
2. Add a new cash

Figure 10.

account with the name Journals and description Holding Account for Journals. (If you dedicate this account to imputation transfers, you can easily find these transactions in the Register.)

3. Open *Journals* account.
4. Create a transaction in the *Journals* account as follows:

Tfr Imp Tax Creds from Tax
Credit Expense
and click on Enter.

- 5. Memorise the transaction.** (Highlight the transaction, click the Edit button, then select Memorise Transaction.)

6. Create a second transaction in the *Journals* account:

As appropriate, same as in 4. (above)

Figure 11.

Payee:

Transfer Tax Creds From This Account

Spend field:

Enter same amount as in 4. above, say \$90,000.00

Category:

Select [**Shrs Imp Creds**] transfer category (the asset Account)

Memo:

Tfr Imp Tax Creds to Asset Account

and click on Enter.

7. Memorise the Transaction.

8. Make sure your Iconbar is activated. (Right click in tab area to reveal menu to Show Top Iconbar.)

On the top menu bar click Edit > Options > Iconbar.

Click New > locate and highlight *Use a specific Memorised Txn...* from the list that appears > click *Change...* button and enter text for the Icon Label, say *FrTxCrđ* > click OK > then click OK again > in Assign Memorised Transaction to Icon box, select *Receive Tax Credits Into* item from drop-down list and also change Target Account to *Journals* account > click OK > click Done.

You will now see a new Icon for the first memorised transaction on the Iconbar.

9. Create another new Icon as in 8. above, with the label *ToSImpA*, this time selecting the *Transfer Tax Creds From* item from the drop-down list in the Assign Memorised Transaction to Icon box, again changing Target Account to *Journals* account.

You now have two memorised transactions you can use at the click of two buttons, whenever you need to transfer the **Tax Credit Expense**. This does not have to be for every transaction. You will need to transfer in order to produce a Profit & Loss Statement with zero Tax Credit expenses.

Don't forget to go to the *Journals Account* and edit the two amounts to the required figures.

After transferring the Imputation Tax Credit Expense, the Profit & Loss Statement (Fig. 13) now looks much better. Also the Balance Sheet (Fig. 14) now includes the Asset Account reflecting the amount available for tax rebate. Now you have achieved your aim. The Profit & Loss Statement and the Balance Sheet are in line with what is required, and what's more, you can continue to rely on the Investment Performance Report and the AARR for any time interval you choose.

I have found these techniques very useful for tracking my own share portfolio, and I hope you will benefit from my experience.

About the Author

Deanna Ross, deanna@mpx.com.au is a Melb PC member and an Accredited Quicken Cashbook Trainer and Quicken Professional Partner.

MYQFILE-Selected Accounts	Balance Sheet (Includes unrealised gains) As of 31/10/00 (in Aus. Dollars)	31/10/00
		Page 1
Acct		31/10/00 Balance
ASSETS		
Cash and Bank Accounts		
Business Cheque Account		535.90
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts		535.90
Investments		
Share Portfolio		10,700.00
TOTAL Investments		10,700.00
TOTAL ASSETS		11,235.90
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
LIABILITIES		0.00
EQUITY		11,235.90
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		11,235.90

Figure 12.

MYQFILE-All Accounts	Profit & Loss Statement 01/07/00 Through 31/10/00 (in Aus. Dollars)	31/10/00
		Page 1
Category Description		01/07/00- 31/10/00
INCOME		
Dividends:		
Franked Dividends:		
Franked Dividend Class C		133.00
Imputation Amount Class C		68.52
TOTAL Franked Dividends		201.52
Unfranked Dividends:		
Unfranked Dividends		247.00
TOTAL Unfranked Dividends		247.00
TOTAL Dividends		448.52
TOTAL INCOME		448.52
EXPENSES		
Tax (Imputation) Credits		0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		0.00
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES		448.52

Figure 13.

MYQFILE-Selected Accounts	Balance Sheet (Includes unrealised gains) As of 31/10/00 (in Aus. Dollars)	31/10/00
		Page 1
Acct		31/10/00 Balance
ASSETS		
Cash and Bank Accounts		
Business Cheque Account		535.90
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts		535.90
Other Assets		
Share Imputation Credits		68.52
TOTAL Other Assets		68.52
Investments		
Share Portfolio		10,700.00
TOTAL Investments		10,700.00
TOTAL ASSETS		11,304.42
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
LIABILITIES		0.00
EQUITY		11,304.42
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		11,304.42

Figure 14.

Click to Convert

Converting Documents to HTML

You've probably got some existing documents that you'd like to incorporate in your Web pages... if only they were in HTML format. While you can convert them into HTML with almost any document publishing program these days, the conversion often doesn't work as well as you expect. Displaced graphics, misaligned text and hyperlinks converted to plain text are nothing out of the ordinary. This is where Click to Convert comes in. Click promises to convert documents into faithful HTML copies of the original, preserving fonts, layout, placement, links and so on. Click doesn't replace a full-blown Web editor, but it is a handy tool to have if some of your Web documents originate in other programs.

During the simple installation procedure, Click installs itself as a printer driver. From this point onwards you simply print your document to the Click "printer" to convert it into HTML. The software you print from is largely irrelevant; as long as it can output to a printer, Click can grab and process the output. Once you've "printed" your document it appears in

the Click window, from where you can tweak a few simple settings and specify where you want the output located. When you're ready, press the "publish" button and Click starts converting.

Click can convert multiple documents simultaneously, add navigation links to multi-page documents and add borders around them. You can choose to split documents over multiple pages, or output them as a single continuous page. Click saves all files belonging to each document in a single folder, so it is easy to upload the document to your Web server; alternatively, Click's built-in FTP publishing option can do it for you automatically. To avoid the issue of royalty payments on GIF files, Click saves images in PNG format; as long as you and your site visitors are using a browser which supports PNG, such as version 4 or higher of either Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator, this shouldn't pose a problem.

I experimented with Click using a variety of host programs and layout formats, including Microsoft Word, Publisher, Excel, Access, Corel WordPerfect, Print House, Print Office



Bernadette Houghton

as well as a couple of small utilities. The output from my first few attempts had some minor problems, mainly displaced or missing text, and extraneous blank pages. However, a couple of tweaks to Click's settings and — in the case of the extra pages — changing the page size in the host program solved the problems. Within a few minutes of commencing my tests, I had become a Click expert and was able to choose the most appropriate settings for a particular document right from the start.

For some unknown reason, Corel Print Office documents refused to output to the Click window, but I encountered no problems with Print Office's almost-twin, Corel Print House. The only other temporary problem I encountered

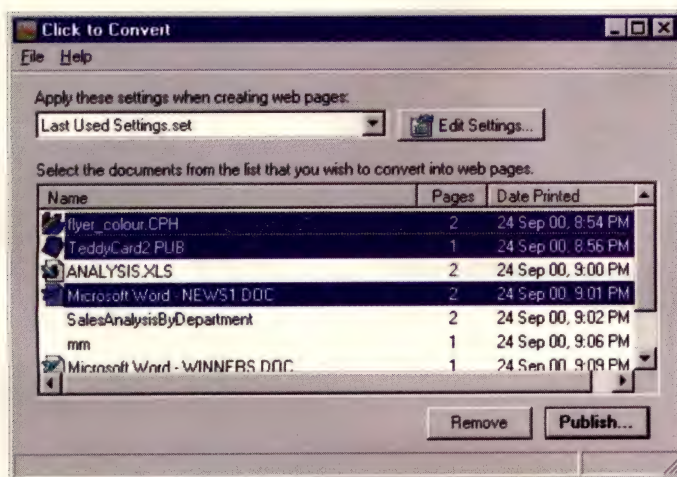


Figure 1. Selecting documents to convert to HTML.

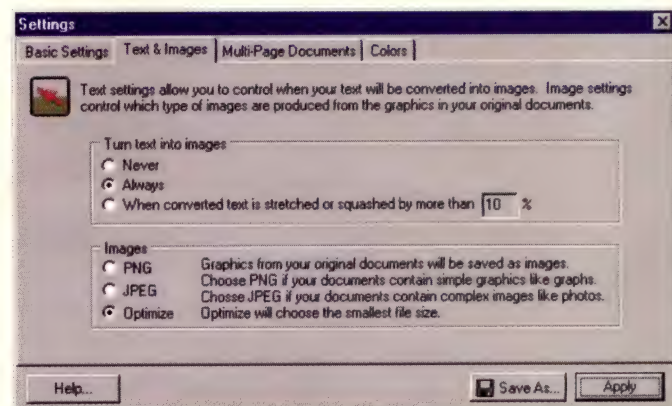


Figure 2. Setting conversion options.

was high definition graphics suffering a large degradation in quality. According to Click's FAQ, most commonly such problems are related to printer settings; however, the solution in my case turned out to be changing my monitor settings from 256 colours to 16-bit High Colour.

Once you've converted your document, you can edit it in a Web page editor if necessary and incorporate it into the rest of your site. One thing to remember is that Click doesn't handle justified or kerneled text well, but you can turn these options off in your host program or choose the "convert text to image" option in Click's settings. Click also has a habit of converting multiple graphics into a single large background graphic. These idiosyncrasies can make Click's HTML documents harder to edit in HTML form, so you may find it easiest to edit documents in the host program and re-publish them to Click.

Keep in mind that Click only complements — it doesn't replace — a proper Web page editor. And once a page is

published to Click, it is no longer linked to the original document; so if the information on the original document changes, you'll have to re-publish the document to Click and re-upload it to your Web server.

Overall, I found Click to Convert simple to use and the problems I encountered easily overcome. In every case — apart from the Corel Print Office document which wouldn't output — Click produced an HTML copy that looked exactly like the original.

Cost and Availability

From US\$149 per license. Purchase online from www.clicktoconvert.com/buy.asp. Alternatively, contact Inzone Software, PO Box 106-328, Downtown, Auckland, New Zealand.

Minimum System Requirements

Windows 95. □

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Wireless Application Protocol

Major Keary

Professional WAP

The Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) first appeared in 1997 when the WAP Forum was established. Within two years WAP-enabled phones were on the market, and WAP has become the subject of much literature and even more *hype*. *Professional WAP* from Wrox Press presents a comprehensive coverage of the technology and its implementation. Thirteen authors contributed — each responsible for specific chapters — and no less than thirty-three technical reviewers checked their work.

The book does not set out to persuade readers that they *must* embrace WAP; apart from the depth of technical content its commentary on what can be expected of WAP is objective, as the following quote indicates:

“As with all new technologies, the expectations of WAP were very high ... [and] ... everyone was expecting to surf the Internet from their [mobile] phones just like from a normal browser, with pixel-perfect content, images and sound. The reality is quite different.

“WAP is intended to provide a common application environment for mobile devices and its protocols are based on the Internet protocols. However, this

does not mean that WAP was devised with the intent of porting the entire content of the Internet to mobile devices.

“The average HTML page is now very elaborate, filled with multimedia content, frames, colors, and dynamic effects. Such pages would lose all their appeal if translated into WAP pages and presented on a display of, for example, 5 lines of 20 characters ... “

An important feature of WAP is its versatility. It has its own markup language (WML) and scripting facility (WMLScript), and can be used within ASP, JSP, XML, XSLT, WTA, Push, and VoiceXML. Each of those applications is discussed in technical detail with example source code and valuable commentary.

Even if you are not going to be the programmer for a WAP project, the text includes much information that will assist in evaluating WAP in the context of any specific implementation. The book is in parts:

WAP and the Wireless World, which is a general overview followed by practical information about currently available tools from the four major vendors (Nokia, Ericsson, Motorola, and Phone.com). A chapter deals in detail with the WAP gateway.

The Wireless Markup Language, which is defined from ASP, JSP, XML, XSLT, WTA, Push, and VoiceXML. Two chapters provide a good overview of XML for WML users. WMLScript, which has a similar syntax to JavaScript, is described with illustrative examples. The final chapter in this part, *Usability*, should be read by anyone considering deployment of WAP technology; it addresses, amongst other topics, a range of issues to do with the limitations of mobile devices.

Generating Dynamic WAP Content examines a number of server-side technologies that can be adapted to generation of dynamic content for WAP applications. A number of well known technologies are briefly described, including ASP, and *ColdFusion*. There is also further discussion of XML and XSLT.

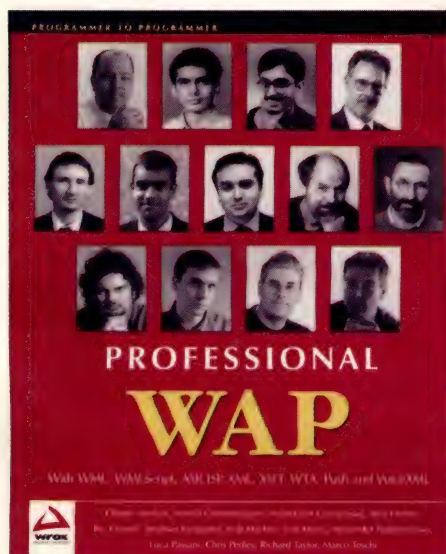
Developing Advanced WAP Applications deals with advanced techniques with emphasis on applications for commerce. One of the issues discussed is the problem of having to redesign a web site for WAP using conversion tools, for which the Java source code is provided. Other topics include WAP email and directory services, and security.

Future WAP and Wireless Technologies looks at technologies that are presently difficult to implement, but for which solutions may become available. Also discussed are related technologies, such as VoiceXML.

Appendices contain useful data, including WML elements, a WMLScript reference, WMLScript Library Functions, WTAI libraries, and the WBMP Image Format. A glossary lists all those strange new abbreviations, and a comprehensive index is provided.

This is probably the most significant coverage of WAP presently available for anyone involved at a professional level with the task of assessing, planning, managing, or developing a WAP project. The information is practical and well supported by illustrative code. An appendix contains an extensive listing of resources, both published literature and URLs. Not a cheap book, but well worth the price for anyone with a professional interest in WAP implementation.

Charles Arehart et al.: *Professional WAP*
ISBN 1-861004-04-4
Published by Wrox, 813 pp.,
RRP \$132.95 incl. GST



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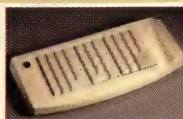


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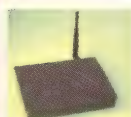
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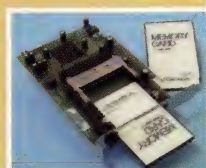


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See review in October issue of Electronics Australia



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QBASIC and the Math Code Puzzle

Keith Phillips

"Math code" puzzles in "The Age" through December and January, can be solved by a combination of arithmetic, spelling and guesswork.

MATHCODE.BAS is an aid to solving these puzzles and it is made by editing QB&MOUSE.BAS from *PC Update* November 2000. Copy QBASIC.EXE, QBASIC.HLP and QB&MOUSE.BAS to a floppy disk. Decide later whether to copy the programs to another drive.

Go to the MS-DOS prompt and type A: to make it the default drive. Type QBASIC to start QBASIC.EXE, load QB&MOUSE.BAS and edit the values in CALL MouseLimits and replace all the subroutines with the code in MATHCODE.1. Save the program as MATHCODE.BAS and close QBASIC.

Still at the A: prompt type QBASIC /ED to start QBASIC as a text editor. Type in the text from MATHCODE.TXT (Fig. 1). The letters and numbers must be arranged exactly as shown. All the letters and numbers are in the 1st, 3rd, 5th, etc. columns. To type in the line characters, hold down the Alt key, press

four digits on the Num Pad, then release the Alt key. Press 0196 for the horizontal line character, 0218 for the corner character and 0179 for the vertical line character. Print one of each character then use copy and paste. Save the text as MATHCODE.TXT and close the QBASIC editor.

Type EXIT to return to Windows9x, and as described for QB&MOUSE.BAS, make a shortcut, rename it SOLVE MATHCODE, and edit the Cmd-line to:

```
A:\QBASIC.EXE /RUN
A:\MATHCODE.BAS
```

[This command goes on one line with a space between /RUN and A:\MATH...]

Make another shortcut, rename it EDIT MATHCODE, and edit the Cmd-line to:

```
A:\QBASIC.EXE /ED
A:\MATHCODE.TXT
```

[again, command on one line with a space]

Check that the "working directories" of both shortcuts are A:\.

Double left click the SOLVE MATHCODE shortcut. The first step to solve the puzzle is to Single Left Click each of the letters O & I in Row 2 to replace them with their number values in the puzzle. The 4th subtraction in Row 10 shows that F=0. Left Drag F from the puzzle, drop it in Row 2 above the zero and Single Left Click the letter. The screen image (Fig. 2) shows the puzzle at this stage. Then follow the rest of the steps in the screen image. As each letter is solved, Left Drag it from the puzzle to Row 2 and Single Left Click it.

In Rows 10 & 13 The 1st subtractions include carry, and the equations in the screen image show how these are recorded. When the result of a subtraction is zero the program automatically inserts the minus one if a carry is required but when the result is not zero you have to decide whether a carry has occurred. No letters are solved by the Row 10 & 13 equations but the letter sequences are AV & UR and the only other letters are E, S & T. The puzzle is solved! You can usually guess the solution to a puzzle without solving



Figure 1. MATHCODE.TXT.

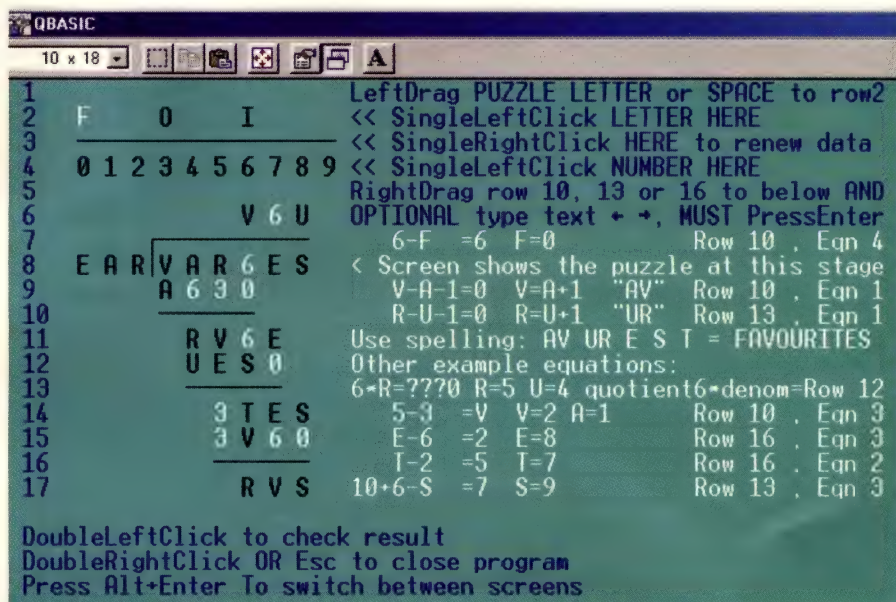


Figure 2. The screen image.

all the letters. There have been a few puzzles where the clues had only nine letters so you also had to guess the missing letter.

The rest of the equations in the screen image are included as examples. In $6 \times R = ???0$, the 6 is the 2nd digit in the quotient and the R is the 3rd letter in the denominator. Their product in Row 12 ends with zero, so R must be 5. The last equation shows how to record a subtraction with borrow.

When you are solving a puzzle you can make your own notes but keep them as brief as possible. To make a note for a subtraction, Right Drag from a horizontal line character in Row 10, 13 or 16. The program automatically prints the equation with its Row & Eqn numbers. If this is sufficient for your record, just press enter to hide the text cursor and reactivate the mouse cursor. Or, you can type something, e.g. $F=0$, and then press enter. To make notes for the steps that don't use subtractions, Right Drag a space, type your note and press enter.

If you drop the letter above the wrong number, Left Drag a space to blank it out. If you drop a letter above the wrong number and Single Left Click it before you notice the mistake, Single Left Click the number to undo the mistake. At any stage, Double Left Click anywhere to check the result. Single Right Click in Row 6 to renew the data and start again. Double Right Click anywhere or press Esc to close the program.

TWOWORDS.TXT (Fig. 3) is another Math Code puzzle. The slash character means that the solution is two words with 4/6 letters. Double Left Click the EDIT MATHCODE shortcut and edit the letters for this puzzle. Be careful to over type and don't alter the arrangement. Always save the puzzle as MATHCODE.TXT because that is the file that MATHCODE.BAS opens.

MATHCODE.BAS is on the BBS in MATHCODE.ZIP which also contains the solution to the two words puzzle. If you copy the MATHCODE and QBASIC files to another drive, they don't have to

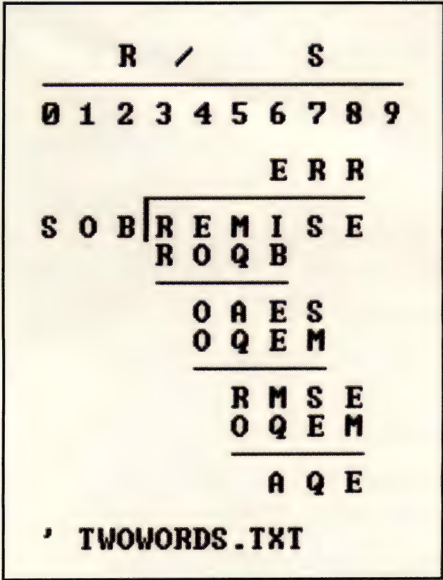


Figure 3. TWOWORDS.TXT.

go to the same directory (N.B. put only one copy of QBASIC on your hard drives). Make new shortcuts on the desktop or in any other directory. □

MATHCODE.1

```
'EDIT THE MouseLimits VALUES TO:
CALL MouseLimits(6, 24, 2, 18, 6, 6)
'REPLACE ALL THE SUBROUTINES WITH:
OpeningScreen: COLOR 0, 3: CLS
OPEN "MATHCODE.TXT" FOR INPUT AS #1: i = 1                'Display Puzzle
DO: i = i + 1: LOCATE i, 6: LINE INPUT #1, tmp$: PRINT tmp$
LOOP UNTIL EOF(1) OR i = 17
LOCATE 1, 1: COLOR 1: FOR i = 1 TO 17: PRINT i: NEXT i
LOCATE 1, 26: PRINT "LeftDrag PUZZLE LETTER or SPACE to row2"
LOCATE , 26: PRINT "<< SingleLeftClick LETTER HERE"
LOCATE , 26: PRINT "<< SingleRightClick HERE to renew data"
LOCATE , 26: PRINT "<< SingleLeftClick NUMBER HERE"
LOCATE , 26: PRINT "RightDrag row 10, 13 or 16 to below AND"
LOCATE , 26: PRINT "OPTIONAL type text "; CHR$(27); " "; CHR$(26);
PRINT ", MUST PressEnter"
LOCATE 19, 2: PRINT "DoubleLeftClick to check result"
PRINT " DoubleRightClick OR Esc to close program"
PRINT " Press Alt+Enter To switch between screens"
CLOSE #1: COLOR 15
RETURN
SingleClick: GOSUB RowCol                                'Start Here With presses=1 releases=1
IF click = 1 AND col <= 24 AND (row = 2 OR row = 4) THEN 'click=1=Left
letter$ = CHR$(SCREEN(2, col)): number$ = CHR$(SCREEN(4, col))
IF letter$ < "A" OR letter$ > "Z" THEN RETURN
FOR i = 6 TO 17: FOR j = 6 TO 22 STEP 2: LOCATE i, j
IF row = 2 THEN                                     'Replace Letters With Numbers
IF CHR$(SCREEN(i, j)) = letter$ THEN PRINT number$;
```

...continued next page


```

ELSEIF row = 4 THEN                                'Replace Numbers With Letters
    IF CHR$(SCREEN(i, j)) = number$ THEN PRINT letter$;
END IF
NEXT j: NEXT i: IF row = 4 THEN LOCATE 2, col: PRINT " ";
END IF
IF click = 2 AND row = 3 THEN GOSUB OpeningScreen    'click=2=Right
RETURN
DoubleClick: GOSUB RowCol                            'Start Here With presses=2 releases=2
IF click = 1 THEN                                    'DoubleLeftClick
    x$ = "Yes": y$ = ""                              'x$=Yes=All Digits In Row8
    FOR i = 6 TO 22 STEP 2: z$ = CHR$(SCREEN(8, i)): y$ = y$ + z$
    IF z$ < "0" OR z$ > "9" THEN x$ = "No"           'x$=No=Not All Digits
    NEXT i: LOCATE 23, 4: IF x$ = "No" THEN PRINT "No ! ROW 8 = "; y$
    IF x$ = "Yes" THEN                                'Calculate Result
        denominator& = VAL(LEFT$(y$, 3)): numerator& = VAL(RIGHT$(y$, 6))
        LOCATE 23, 4: PRINT numerator&; CHR$(246); denominator&;
        PRINT " quotient"; " = "; numerator& \ denominator&;
        PRINT " remainder"; " = "; numerator& MOD denominator&;
    END IF
END IF
IF click = 2 THEN press$ = CHR$(27)                  'DoubleRightClick Closes Program
RETURN
DragMouseCursor: GOSUB RowCol                        'Start Here With presses=1 releases=0
i = row: j = col: tmp$ = CHR$(SCREEN(i, j))          'Save At Start Of Drag
LOCATE , , 1, 0, 7: CALL AssemblyCode(1, 0, 0, 0)    'Show Both Cursors
WHILE releases < 1                                    'Wait For Mouse Button Release
    CALL AssemblyCode(3, 0, cx, dx): GOSUB RowCol      'Get row & col
    IF click = 1 THEN row = 2 ELSE IF click = 2 THEN col = 29 'Targets
    LOCATE row, col                                    'Text Cursor Shows Position For Drop
    bx = click - 1: CALL AssemblyCode(6, bx, 0, 0): releases = bx
WEND                                                    'Exit Loop When Button Released At End Of Drag
LOCATE , , 0: CALL AssemblyCode(2, 0, 0, 0)          'Hide Both Cursors
IF click = 1 THEN                                      'Left Drop
    IF tmp$ = " " OR (tmp$ >= "A" AND tmp$ <= "Z") THEN PRINT tmp$;
ELSEIF click = 2 THEN                                  'Right Drop
    IF tmp$ = " " THEN col = 26: GOSUB TypeMessage    'Drag Blank
    IF tmp$ = CHR$(196) AND (i = 10 OR i = 13 OR i = 16) THEN 'Drag Eqn
        x$ = CHR$(SCREEN(i - 2, j)): IF x$ = " " THEN x$ = "0" 'Characters
        y$ = CHR$(SCREEN(i - 1, j)): IF y$ = " " THEN y$ = "0" 'Of Dragged
        z$ = CHR$(SCREEN(i + 1, j)): IF z$ = " " THEN z$ = "0" 'Equation
        IF z$ = "0" AND x$ <> y$ THEN y$ = y$ + "-1" ELSE y$ = y$ + " "
        PRINT x$; "-"; y$; "="; z$                    'Print Dragged Equation
        j = j - 10: IF i > 10 THEN j = j - 2: IF i > 13 THEN j = j - 2
        LOCATE row, 51: PRINT "Row"; i; ", Eqn"; j / 2; 'Row & Eqn Numbers
        col = 38: GOSUB TypeMessage                    'In Same Row As Eqn To Type Result
    END IF
END IF
RETURN
TypeMessage: LOCATE , , 1, 0, 7                        'Show Text Cursor
DO: LOCATE , col 'Text Cursor At Position For Character To Be Printed
DO: press$ = INKEY$: LOOP UNTIL press$ <> ""          'Wait For Key Press
IF press$ >= " " THEN PRINT press$; : col = col + 1    'Key=Character
IF press$ = CHR$(0) + "K" THEN col = col - 1          'Key=Left Arrow
IF press$ = CHR$(0) + "M" THEN col = col + 1          'Key=Right Arrow
IF col < 26 THEN col = 26 ELSE IF col > 64 THEN col = 64 'col Limits
LOOP UNTIL press$ = CHR$(13): LOCATE , , 0            'Exit & Hide Text Cursor
RETURN
RowCol:
    row = dx \ 8 + 1: col = ((cx \ 8 + 2) \ 2) * 2    'col=Even Numbers
RETURN
'LEAVE THE SUBPROGRAMS UNCHANGED

```

□

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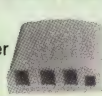
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MULTIPLE MODEMS

Choose **AUTO-SELECT** when two or more Modems need to be connected to a Fax or dedicated Modem line. Fit up to eight Modems, or seven Modems and one Fax to the same line. Incoming calls are automatically routed to any device. Barge-in protection is provided.



IMPROVE the EFFICIENCY or PROFESSIONALISM of any ordinary TELEPHONE LINE

MUSIC OR MESSAGE ON HOLD FACILITY FOR ANY LINE

No longer is this important business facility restricted to Commander or PABX systems. Simply connect any radio, cassette, digital player, or even your PC to this low cost unit and add a professional touch to any existing line!



TELEPHONE CALL TRANSFER

Now you can answer a call on one telephone and then transfer the call to another telephone fitted to the same line, using your existing telephones. You can even use your phones as an intercom. No special wiring required. Up to 8 extensions per line. Barge-in protection is also provided.



DIGITAL MESSAGE CENTRE FOR MESSAGE ON HOLD

HIGH QUALITY Royalty Free Generic or Customized Digital Message for new installations or as a direct 'plug in replacement' for a Radio on Hold connected to any PABX, Commander or Key Telephone System.



DOOR STATION FOR ANY LINE

When a visitor presses a supplied door phone mounted at your front door or gate, your telephones will ring allowing you to answer and converse from any telephone. If your line is in use, a Call Interrupt facility will alert you. You can even open the gate or door with a command from your telephone.



HIGH QUALITY INTERCOM SYSTEM

INTERPHONE provides LOUD, CLEAR, telephone quality INTERCOM communication for 2 to 64 telephone handsets. Simply pick up any telephone and dial the desired telephone. InterPhone uses its own telephone cable, but does not connect to a Telecom line.



TWO LINE SELECTOR

Now you can connect TWO telephones lines (Telstra, Optus, ISDN or Tie Line) to one Fax, Modem, Cordless Telephone, Answering Machine or any Telephone device. Receive incoming calls from either line. Make outgoing calls on either line.



Turn ON, Turn OFF or RESET your PC, NETWORK or any ELECTRICAL device by TELEPHONE

REMOTE TELEPHONE ACTIVATOR

RTA will allow you to call in on your telephone line and SWITCH ON, SWITCH OFF, or RESET up to 6 separate electrical appliances, PCs or Networks using a touch tone telephone and PIN Number. Our Line Sharing technology means you can use it AUTOMATICALLY, on any existing line.



PC RESET UNIT

This low cost accessory for use with our RTA, is designed for quick and easy user fitting, direct to the back of ANY PC. Once fitted, you will be able to call in and RESET your PC from any Touch Tone Telephone, at any time, from anywhere in the world!



POWER CONTROL UNIT

This RTA accessory provides you with a simple '2 minute plug in' solution for controlling remote electrical equipment. Once fitted, you will be able to call in and TURN ON, TURN OFF or RESET the power connected to any Electrical Device from any Touch Tone Telephone.



TELEPHONE LINE SIMULATORS for TESTING, TRAINING or DEMONSTRATION of all TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT

RINGMASTER STD

This compact low cost device allows any two Telephone devices to ring and communicate with each other, without the need to connect to Two Telecom lines. Save 25c per call. Ideal for the Testing, Training & Demonstration of all telephone devices. Operation is Bi-Directional.



RINGMASTER PRO

Provides all of the facilities of our STD device and in addition generates Australian Dial Tone, Busy Tone and Disconnect Tones as appropriate. This unit also generates ALL EIGHT TELSTRA RING PATTERNS planned for use in Australia, including FaxStream Duet, EasyCall Multiple Number and Diverted Call rings.



RINGMASTER CLI

Provides all of the facilities of our PRO device and in addition generates TEN SEPARATE CALLING NUMBER DISPLAY (CND) test transmissions, in conjunction with any TELSTRA RING PATTERN. Alphanumeric and User Definable CND transmissions are also provided for.



Manufactured in Australia



NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS
Australia's Telephone Line Sharing Company

For a Full Description of your Solution, Please Contact your State Office:

NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS (VIC) PH: (03) 9887 6200 FAX: (03) 9803 1708

Manufactured in Australia



• UNCONDITIONAL 30 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE • TWO YEAR WARRANTY • DEALER ENQUIRIES WELCOME •

Visit our comprehensive Web Site for information, brochures, prices, product sheets, installation diagrams, distributors or to place an order.

Web Site: www.natcomm.com.au

Email: natcomm@natcomm.com.au

Members. Here is something you could hand around to your friends and acquaintances. Write your details in the "How did you learn About Melb PC" box opposite, then photocopy and distribute freely.

Why You Should Join Melbourne PC User Group

Melbourne PC User Group is many things to many people, after all it is the second largest user group in the world! Even though each of our thousands of members has a unique experience of Melb PC, we have a common belief in the value of computer users helping other computer users.

Helping Them Do What?

The list is almost endless — some of the things Melb PC is best known for are:

Support

Practical and emotional support. Whether you're trying to install a new operating system, a hard drive, a word processor or flight simulator, someone at Melb PC has been there and done that. You may find a whole group of people who meet regularly to discuss the very problem you are experiencing.

Meeting

One of the ways Melb PC helps its members support each other is through meetings. Within its diverse membership you'll find novices, old hands and everyone in between. Whatever you're trying to do, there's some-one to help you. As a member of Melb PC you'll also have the opportunity to meet industry leaders and technical experts representing major software and hardware vendors. They'll answer your questions and demonstrate the latest developments in computing technology, often before the general public gets the news.

Teaching, Learning and Enjoying

As an organisation, Melb PC with its range of skills and knowledge provides a range of formal and informal opportunities for teaching and learning new computing skills. So whatever the reason you use a computer, Melb PC helps you enjoy it more!

How?

Melb PC's greatest strength is its membership. With around 11,000 members, it is the world's second largest PC User Group. It was founded in 1984 and is still run by and for its members, people like yourself. Although Melb PC employs some staff, many activities such as maintaining the group's online services, organising monthly meetings etc., are performed by volunteers.

Who Belongs To Melb PC?

Anyone who uses a computer at work, school or play. Parents, children,

grandparents and singles. Beginners, old hands, youngsters and oldies. Teachers, students, business operators, secretaries, CEOs, doctors, lawyers, plumbers, electricians, builders, pilots, writers, editors, engineers, journalists, accountants and more! You name it, Melb PC's members do it. Your membership is your key to a vast store of knowledge, an invaluable information resource and help in many fields. Your benefits of membership come to you in many ways throughout the year:

PC Update

Eleven times a year, Melb PC's magazine *PC Update* brings you news about computer hardware, software and how your fellow members use these to achieve their goals. You'll read about members' experiences, learning from their successes and mistakes. Each issue also covers the group's regular activities and any special "members only" events or offers the group has arranged. Your yearly Melb PC membership includes *PC Update* delivered.

Computer First-Aid and Dial Help

Free vendor support is becoming scarcer every year. It's no wonder many members find these two services, alone, worth the cost of membership. These are "members only" services. Experienced volunteers share their time and knowledge to help fellow members work through problems. Just knowing there is someone to call gives some members the courage to try something new.

Internet Access

The Internet is the foundation of the communication revolution and the key to success in the new millennium. Melb PC pioneered the provision of affordable Internet access and remains an acknowledged leader offering very competitively priced Internet access to members. The fast and reliable service provides connection speeds up to 56 kbit/s, with preconfigured software for ease of installation, helpful technical support, and is constantly evolving in pace with emerging technology.

Training

Whether you're an absolute beginner planning to buy your first computer or a power user looking to update your skills, Melb PC has a training course for you. Most courses are hands on, conducted in Melb PC's own, modern, Pentium-

equipped training centre. These courses are "members only" so they are cost-competitive compared to similar courses elsewhere. Each month *PC Update* contains details of forthcoming courses.

Meetings

Our main monthly meetings include presentations by leading computer hardware and software vendors to Melb PC members and their guests. Speakers have included industry giants such as Bill Gates, Philippe Kahn and Gordon Eubanks, as well as the CEOs and senior managers from major Australian and overseas vendors.

Members win software worth thousands of dollars at these meetings. The meeting provides an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and get to know your fellow members better. With hundreds of members attending, the meetings are great for exploring your fellow members' problem-solving skills.

SIGs

If big groups aren't for you, or if you have a special interest, Special Interest Groups (SIGs) may be your thing. A SIG can deal with any topic, from a particular application to hardware, programming, or how to get the best from your equipment. Check a current issue of *PC Update* for meeting dates, locations, contact information and information about future events.

Bulletin Board

For a different style of electronic communications our group operates a free multiline Bulletin Board System (BBS) on 9699 6611. (You can dial in with your modem using Windows HyperTerminal, supplied with Windows.) There are numerous Freeware and Shareware files available to download.

Members can use the BBS to send messages around the world (in message forums similar to Internet Newsgroups), or to other members. Realtime online chatting with other members is also available.

Reference and Software Libraries

Members can browse or borrow books and magazines. An extensive range of shareware and freeware programs are reviewed in *PC Update* and are available on disk from the shareware library.

Whether you are an individual, family or company, one thing is clear. If you want to get the most from your computing experience, a Melb PC membership is a must. ■

Melbourne PC User Group Inc.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Ref: PCU1200

Membership Type

I Individual **F** Family
S Student **C** Corporate
B Pensioner

Membership Number

Renewals Only

Title **Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss etc**

This form may be photocopied
to avoid damaging your PC Update

First Name **Initial** **Last Name**

Use the spaces below for additional family or corporate names.

Address

B/H Phone

Suburb **State** **Post Code** **A/H Phone**

Job Title **Employer**

Additional Family or Corporate Members only

Title	First Name	Initial	Last Name	B/H Phone
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

I hereby apply for membership of Melbourne PC User Group Inc (A0003293V)
and agree to abide by its rules while I am a member.

Signature **Date**

I do ☐ do not ☐ wish
to receive occasional promotional mail from commercial organisations.

How did you learn about Melb PC? Please complete.

PC Update ☐ **Swap Meet** ☐ **Friend** ☐ **Other**

Introduced by a Melb PC member

Member Name

Membership Number

Payment Details / Credit Card Authority

**Forward to: Melb PC, PO Box 283,
South Melbourne VIC 3205, Australia.**

Cheque ☐ **Debit Card** ☐ **Credit Card** ☐ **Amount \$**

Cheques payable to Melbourne PC User Group Inc (A0003293V)

Bankcard ☐ **Visa** ☐ **Mastercard** ☐ **Expiry**

Name on Card

Signature **Date**

Summary

Type	Number	New (Tick)	Renewal (Tick)	Amount
Individual	1	\$66	\$55	\$
Additional Family members at \$10 each	<input type="text"/>	\$10	\$10	\$
Corporate	1	\$143	\$132	\$
Additional Corporate members at \$66 each	<input type="text"/>	\$66	\$66	\$
Student	1	\$55	\$44	\$
Pensioner	1	\$55	\$44	\$
TOTAL				\$

Notes:

- Students must attach a photocopy of student card or a letter from their educational Institution confirming full-time student status.
- Pensioners must attach a photocopy of both sides of their Pension Concession Card.
- Corporate members may change representatives by giving notice in writing to The Secretary.

Shareware Order Form

These are some of the most popular volumes in the Melb PC Shareware/Freeware library. Refer to the regular catalogue updates in PC Update for up-to-date listings of other disks. Use the blank section of this form for your choice from those listings.

Shareware/PD Title	Melb No.	Qty.	Amount
Shareware catalogue & New Member Disk	0000		
Graphics Workshop for DOS	8015		
Graphics Workshop for Windows 3.x	8064		
Graphics Workshop for Windows 95	8562		
Growit	8157		
List	1490		
McAfee VirusScan for DOS	8018		
McAfee VirusScan for Windows 3.x(3-disk set)	8897-8899		
McAfee VirusScan for Windows 95 (4-disk set)	8893-8896		
MS-DOS 6.22 Stepup from 6.0 (3-disk set)	8110-8112		
PKZip/PKUnzip	1235		
Real Audio Player for Windows 3.x	8364		
Real Audio Player for Windows 95	8592		
Telix for DOS	8062		
Telix for Windows v1.00 (2-disk set)	8129-8130		
Wolfenstein Fights Street Fighter II	8012		
Melb PC Internet kit (special price)			
Windows 3.x @ \$10 per set (3-disk set)	8711-8713		
Melb PC Internet Setup Master (Win 95/98)	9192		
Postage/Packing is included. Costs: first disk (per order) \$5, second disk \$4, third and subsequent disks \$3 each	TOTAL		

Training Order Form

Course Title	Starting Date	Amount
TOTAL		

For Shareware and Training, use the remittance form on the back of this page.

Christmas Shopping Ideas Guide

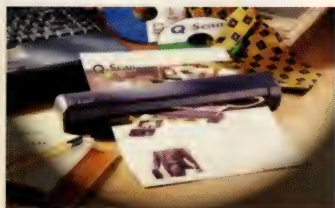
PC Update has gathered a range of products from various suppliers and presents to members this list of shopping ideas. The list is arranged under the following categories:

- Components and Accessories p.35
- Computers and Monitors p.37
- Cameras and Imaging Devices p.38
- Other Items incl software p.40

Text has been printed generally as supplied — with minimal editing except where necessary to save space.

Participating vendors and contact details are listed on Page 37. Some vendors have offered a member discount. Be sure to have your membership card with you in order to obtain the benefit. Enjoy!

Components and Accessories



Portable Color Scanner

24-bit 300 dpi USB Interface P&P TWAIN-Compliant with OCR Textbridge and MGI PhotoSuite SE. PATROL Model No SN300TU RRP (Ex.GST): \$225.00

• AME Group



100 MB ZIP USB Starter Kit

USB Easy to connect. Comes with three disks. Plug it in, connect the USB cable to the computer, and install the IomegaWare™ software. Done!

Code: A2308
Price: \$242.05

• Harris Technology



TV Tuner PCI Card

Capture as Digital VCR, FM Radio, CD Player & Video conferencing, a remote control and a mouse control in one, TV schedules. Record one hour of VHS quality needs only 1 GB Hard Disk Space. AVerMedia Model No MTVPhone98TVCR RRP (Inc.GST): \$209.00

• AME Group

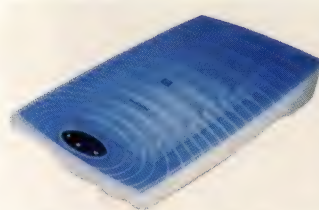


HP Printer & Scanner Bundle

HP DeskJet 840C

HP's creative photo-quality colour, speed & flexibility

- Photo-quality with HP PhotoREt II
 - Alternative 600x1200 dpi mode on photo paper
 - Prints up to 8 ppm black and 5 ppm colour
 - Exclusive HP inks dry fast for smudge-resistant text and images
- Plus the ScanJet 3400c



HP ScanJet 3400C

Easy scanning, copying & e-mail!

- WYSWYG compatibility
- Dual I/O: USB & Parallel interface
- 600 dpi optical
- 36 bit colour
- Precision Scan LTX software

Code: B1553

Bundle Price \$459.00

• Harris Technology



WingMan Force 3D Joystick

Feel the action in your games! Logitech's new force feedback joystick lets you feel weapon recoils, explosions and much more. The space-saving design takes up minimal room on your desktop. Includes a twist handle function, seven programmable buttons, an 8-way hat switch and a high-precision throttle. Requires USB connection.

Code: A4998

Price \$138.60

• Harris Technology

Yamaha YSTM8 Speakers

Full range powered monitor speaker pair, 2x 5W. Astonishingly deep bass, sub-woofer and headphone output jacks, dual stereo inputs.

Code: White 81339 — Black 81340

Price \$79.00

• Harris Technology



D-Link PC Radio DSB-R100

D-Link's powerful new desktop PC radio enables you to simultaneously listen to and record your favourite radio program while working at your PC. Simply plug it into your computer and play.

Program up to 200 custom FM radio stations with digital sound. Incl. software to record and download music to MP3 format for later playback. No more harsh static and unclear computer sound quality. Excellent FM reception with crisp, clear digital recording quality. Includes a "sleep" and "wake" function enabling you to record radio programs when away from the PC. RRP\$65 incl GST

• D-Link



Hitachi CP-S220W Portable Data Projector

Key Features

- Compact Body — 289 mm x 60 mm x 210 mm. Weighs just 2.4 kg
- Short Throw Distance — 60 inch diagonal screen from only 1.5 m away
- Bright — 800 lm. Low Noise — 34 db
- Digital Keystone Correction
- RGB input, 2 Video inputs (1 x S-video and 1 x composite) and 1 audio input
- Built in speaker
- Optional remote Mouse unit
- Automatic Setup — Simple Plug and Play True SVGA resolution (800 x 600) — Compressed XGA (1024 x 768)
- Warranty — two years parts and labour.

RRP: \$6995

• Hitachi

Where to buy these products?

• Vendor listing — Page 37.

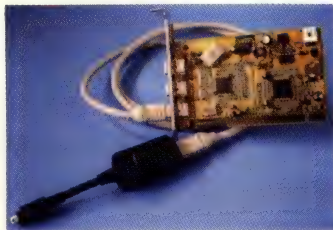


Audio Video RF Link with Infra Red Repeater

This audio video RF link includes a transmitter and receiver operating at 2.4 GHz as well as an infrared repeater. It transmits high quality colour video and stereo audio from one room to another and allows control of the source using your existing remote control. The RF signal penetrates walls, floors and ceilings (dependent upon construction). The included directional antenna allows a link to extend up to 100m line of sight. The infrared is repeated back up to 50m. The video quality is absolutely first class, as is the stereo audio signal. It is ideal for relaying DVD, satellite and cable TV or a VCR to a second TV set etc.

The kit includes a transmitter, a receiver, an infrared transmitter, two power packs and two sets of audio/video cables with RCA connectors. You will probably need another infrared remote control, Cat No 8924 is the only one we could find that works with Foxtel satellite. Cat No 11808
Usually \$236.00
Members Price \$209.00

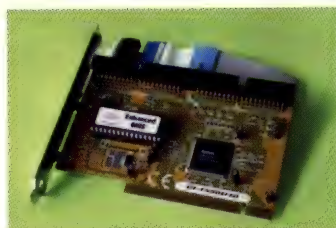
● MicroGram Computers



FireWire to PCI Host Adapter

Connect your digital video camera to your PC. Our Firewire card allows IEEE 1394 FireWire devices (most digital camcorders available today) to connect to your PC at speeds up to 400 Mbps. The card has three external and one internal connectors to allow connections to hard drives, scanners, VCRs, HDTV, printers etc. Editing your videos is simplified with the bundled Ulead Video Studio V4.0 SE software (UPGRADE TO MEDIASTUDIO PRO VE 6.0 at time of purchase P/N 70406). Win98 and Win 2000 drivers are also included, (not Win NT). A 6 pin to 6 pin 2m cable with 6-pin to 4-pin adapter completes the package. Cat No 2621
Usually \$196
Members price \$169

● MicroGram Computers



IDE Controller PCI Ultra DMA 100

This Ultra DMA100 IDE controller is designed to provide the best performance and cost choice for upgrading your personal computers. With its two enhanced Ultra DMA100 IDE ports which fully support PIO Mode 4 (16.6 MB/S), multiword DMA Mode 2 (16.6 MB/S), and Ultra DMA Mode 4 (up to 100 MB/S) it breaks the bottleneck and extend the bandwidth of current data I/O. Supports up to 4 IDE devices and co-resides with motherboard IDE ports to support 8 ATAPI/IDE devices simultaneously. Supports drives greater than 8.4 GB.

Cat No 2827
Usually \$119
Members price \$109

● MicroGram Computers



Infrared Data Suite – with PC Software

Not just an infrared link, but also PC based software for multiple mobile phones and PDAs.

The link connects via a serial port and transfers your address book, logos, ring tones, calendars etc. via infrared to your phone or PDA. It allows address books to be imported via csv files as well as providing backup capability for your phone numbers etc.

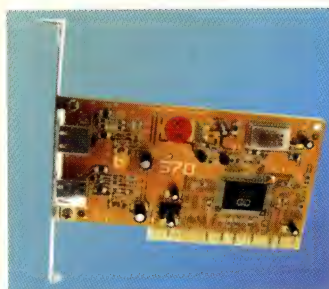
Mobile phones currently supported include: Nokia 6110, 6130, 6138, 6150, 7110, 8850, 8210. Motorola L2000, LF2000. Siemens S25, S2588. Ericsson R320. Also supported are compatible Palm machines with Palm OS 3.3. including Palm Vx, Palm V, Palm IIIx, Palm III and IBM WorkPad C3, 30X.

Cat No 8912
Usually \$189.00
Members price \$159.00

● MicroGram Computers

Where to buy these products?

● Vendor listing – Page 37.



USB Card Two Port PCI

Provides 2 USB ports with a bandwidth up to 12 Mb/s. Supports real time dynamic insertion and removal of up to 127 devices. The ports are Version 1.1 compliant. If your new scanner won't work with the USB ports on your mother board, then they are probably Version 1.0. Using one of these cards (with Win98/2000) will fix most problems. Cat No 2622
Usually \$46

Members price \$41

● MicroGram Computers



CRX-160 CD-ROM Drive

The new CRX160 combines the flexibility of a floppy drive with the performance of a Zip and the capacity of a CD. At 8X HS-RW, the new drive is the first to record information in a re-writable format at speeds of up to 1.2 MB per second. Disks cost less than ten dollars each and have capacity equivalent to over 450 floppy disks or six Zip disks. The CRX160 is compatible with virtually all CD formats, recording methods and media styles. It works with standard 120mm disks as well as small 80mm disks (as used in the Sony CD Mavica) and CD credit card media. It is compatible with standard 650 MB / 74 min CDs and the new 700 MB / 80 minute versions. Designed to work as an all-purpose high-performance optical device. In addition to 8X HS-RW, it supports traditional CD-RW at up to 4X, CD mastering (CD-R) at up to 12X and fast playback up to 32X. Incorporates a host of other features including a 4 MB intelligent buffer to minimise "under-run", a special Disk Recovery function that enables interrupted recordings to be re-started and completed and a 4X audio mode for anti-skip playback and fast disk-to-disk recording. Available as:
Internal drive RRP \$699 inc GST
External unit RRP \$799 inc GST.

● Sony



NWMS7 – Memory Stick Walkman

The first of an all-new Network Audio range, the Memory Stick Walkman supports all popular digital formats (ATRAC3, MP3, .WAV) and stores them on its IC-chip based MagicGate Memory Stick for the ultimate portable music experience.

Ultra compact size (37mm wide, 96.3mm high, 19.2mm deep), weight just 66 grams. Slips into any pocket with ease.

Music can be transferred onto the Memory Stick from CD-ROM, Minidisc, PC or directly from the Web— software supplied. Since playback involves no mechanical movements, it is absolutely skip-proof, the perfect jogging partner. Uses the latest version of ATRAC audio compression technology ATRAC3 to deliver highly realistic digital sound. High quality music with 1/10 of the data space required by equivalent CD music. One 64 MB MagicGate Memory Stick (incl) stores up to 120 min of digital music. RRP \$799.

● Sony



FlyVideo '98 FM

This item is purely for having fun! This card lets you watch TV, listen to FM radio, capture still/full motion video images and more! Use your home video camera for full motion capture at 640 x 480 resolution of up to 30fps. Then save the capture as standard AVI file for sending over the Internet. Do you have friends and relatives overseas? Why not send them a Christmas greeting with a difference this year?

RRP \$135

5% discount for members

● Tecs



HP 9100i 32X/8X/4X CD-RW

Here's a top brand product at a reasonable price. This CD-RW drive is ideal for distributing large amounts of information, creating archival backup of your important data, or simply have fun making your own music CD. This easy to install internal IDE drive comes complete with HP CD Writer Plus software for hassle free operation. All this backed by HP reliability. Price \$445 (5% discount for members)

• Tecs



Microsoft IntelliMouse Optical

Finally, an evolution of the humble mouse! Mouse that used to skip and jump or stall will soon become extinct. Using the sophisticated optical tracking system called IntelliEye, the new breed ball-less mouse glides on almost any surface without the aid of a mouse pad. Gone will be the days of surgically removing the accumulation of dust and dirt from the bowels of the rodent. Price \$75 (10% discount for members)

• Tecs



ome Network Starter Kit

Do you have more than one computer in your household? If you have multiple systems then consider networking them together. The advantage of a network can be something as trivial as file sharing to money saving ideas like Internet sharing. The kit comes complete with two network cards, a five port hub, and two five metre cables. Price \$119 (5% discount for members)

• Tecs



Barracuda ATA II – 30.6 GB Hard Drive

Seagate's Barracuda® ATA II disc drives, targeted at value performance and commercial desktop systems, deliver 7200 RPM and up to 30.6 GB. The Barracuda ATA II features the fastest seek time and data transfer rates in its class, an improved platform with new electronics, and up to 15 % better performance over previous ATA hard drives.

RRP: \$450.45 inc. GST

• Seagate Technology



U Series 5 – 40 GB HD

The U Series 5 is designed specifically for use in consumer electronics, Internet appliances, volume PCs and terminal-based environments, and is available in capacities up to 40 GB, with 5400 RPM performance. Featuring its exclusive "sound barrier technology", the U Series 5 is the world's quietest and fastest hard drive for mainstream desktop computers and personal video recorders.

RRP: Available on application

• Seagate Technology

Computers and Monitors



ASI ARCADIA Notebook

Includes:
14.1 XGA TFT
24x CD-ROM
INTEL MOBILE MMC-2
PIII – 600 MHz
64 MB RAM
2.5" 12 GB HDD
1 Year RTB Warranty
Windows 98SE
Carry Bag
3 Hour Battery
Tri-Spindle – CD/FDD/HDD
8 MB XGA 1280x1024 Display Adapter
Weighs just 2.8 kg
Compares to Dell Inspiron 5000 Series
Supports 5.1 Channel Dolby Surround-sound
Composite TV-Out – supports NTSC/PAL
Code #ASINBPBOM14
JRRP: \$4999

• ASI Solutions



HP Pavilion 6700 series

The HP Pavilion 6700 series allows you to manage daily tasks with the option to upgrade in the future. Built with Intel®, Celeron™ or PIII processors, the HP Pavilion 6700 series fully support today's leading applications. From the HP Pavilion 6700 series, you have your choice of some exciting multimedia capabilities – HP CD-Writers and digital music.

Model 6701: Celeron™ 633 MHz
64 MB SDRAM
15 GB HDD
48x Max CD CDR-W Plus
V.90 56Kbps Modem
Op. system Windows® Me
17" monitor.

Code: A9066
Price: \$2099.00

• Harris Technology

continued next page...

Vendor Listing

Contact Information and/or how to obtain products listed on these pages:

• AME Group

Ph: 02 9749 9788
Fax: 02 9749 9777
Web: <http://www.amegroup.com.au>

• ASI Solutions

Level 1, 424 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne
Ph: 03 8967 2055
Web: <http://www.asi.com.au>
also: Sydney (Head Office)
Ph: 02 9384 8050
Fax: 02 9666 5460

• Canon

Ph: 1800 816 001
Web: <http://www.canon.com.au/>

• D-Link

Distributed by:
Tech Pacific 02 9381 6000
BBF: 1800 803 802
Web: <http://www.dlink.com.au>
Also available from Harvey Norman and Dick Smith Electronics stores.

• Harris Technology

12 Hoddle St. Abbotsford, VIC.
Ph: 03 9418 4199
Fax: 03 9418 4105
Web: <http://www.ht.com.au>

• Hitachi

Enquiries Ph: 1800 789 799
Web: <http://www.hitachi.com.au>

• MicroGram Computers

See advert page 27 this issue.

• Network Associates

All major software retailers.

• Seagate Technology

Ph: 02 9725 3366
Fax: 02 9725 4052

• Sony

Enquiries (for nearest reseller info):
Ph: 1800 226 429
Web: <http://www.sony.com.au>

• Tecs

For your nearest Tecs outlet see advert on page 9 of this issue.

• Xircom

The "Xircom Rex" is available from:
Computer Hardware of Aust.
(03) 9251 3111
Express Data (02) 8336 5100
Tech Pacific (02) 9381 6000
Web: <http://www.xircom.com>



Toshiba Satellite Pro 4360X DVD

Pentium III 700 MHz Speed Step, 64/320 MB RAM, 12 GB HDD, 14.1" TFT screen, Microphone & speaker, Optional Port replicator, 8 MB Video RAM, Including 6xDVD, Weight: 3.17 kg, 1 Year Warranty, 56K V.90 modem, Windows 95/98.
Code: A2995
Price: \$4924.43

● Harris Technology



Sony PCG-SR9G – VAIO Notebook

The PCG-SR9G notebook features a Mobile Intel® Pentium® III Processor 600 MHz featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology with 256 KB Cache. Comes with 64 MB (expandable to 256 MB) SDRAM with a 12 GB HDD. The 10.4-inch colour LCD TFT display offers XGA resolution.

On-board i.LINK digital interface port (IEEE 1394) enables direct connection with digital consumer electronics such as Sony's Digital Handycam.

Weight approx. 1.34 Kg
Dimensions 259 x 237 x 209 mm.
Comes complete with direct Memory Stick™ slot – up to 5.5 hours standard battery life.

Jog Dial Control, AC adapter, one-year warranty.

RRP \$3299

● Sony

Where to buy these products?

● Vendor listing – Page 37.



Hitachi CM615 Monitor

The CM615 is a new addition to Hitachi range of 17" monitors — the CM643 professional class monitor and CM650 short length unit. It is specifically designed for general-purpose office, graphics, and home users requiring 1024 x 768 resolution a refresh rate of 85Hz (the maximum supported by Windows 95/98). Horizontal scanning frequency extends to 70kHz to support the maximum resolution.

Features a 409 mm viewing area, a .23mm horizontal mask pitch with a flat-square black matrix Invar shadow mask. Hitachi claims that this low pitch offers one of the finest, high resolution images on an entry level monitor and reduces eye strain and other ergonomic concerns.

Weight 16.8kg

Dimensions: 404 wide 431 high 429 deep
Tilt swivel base.

RRP: \$579 inc GST

● Hitachi



SDM-M51 – Monitor

The SDM-M51 is an Active Matrix TFT LCD computer display and has been designed to incorporate a sharp picture, stylish looks and ergonomic design, while conserving valuable desk space.

Whatever the PC, the M51 provides brilliant images up to a maximum resolution of 1024 x 768. The flat screen ensures a reflection-free display, showing clear images rich in contrast and brightness even in the lightest of rooms.

When connected to a PC, the auto-adjust function constantly monitors the incoming signal and fine tunes the display in real-time to consistently produce an ideal picture performance. Manual adjustments can also be made using the intuitive On-Screen Display.

RRP \$2419.

● Sony

Cameras and Imaging Devices



Digital Camera – Video Mail or Conferencing

Sony CCD Sensor PC Digital Camera with 350 KB Pixels for Video Mail or Conferencing 30fps at 160x120 15fps at 640x480 bundled with the Live Express and Ulead Photo Express. Vcam Model No: VCU99A

RRP (Ex.GST): \$179.00

● AME Group



QuickCam™ Web

The redesigned Logitech QuickCam Web has everything you need to capture video, send video e-mail, make live video calls, post web albums, broadcast over the Internet and more. With its integrated microphone and excellent assortment of easy-to-use software, QuickCam Web is the perfect Internet video camera for everyone.

Code: A2833

Price: \$175.00

● Harris Technology



Image Capture Device

Portable Motion Picture and Still Image Capture Device, USB Interface 30 fps with a Snapshot and software: Ulead Photo Express, Live Snap, Video Mail, Photo Album, Card Maker.

Vcam Model No VGS610

RRP(Inc.GST): \$179.00

● AME Group



Canon MV300i Digital Camcorder

- 10x Optical/200x Digital Zoom
- Image Stabilizer
- 2.5" Colour LCD View Screen and Colour Viewfinder
- Seven Programmed Exposure Modes
- Digital Effects

The Canon MV300i has an elegant and futuristic design that makes for smooth and easy handling. The MV300i is light enough, easy enough and powerful enough to turn you into a digital movie maker. Point-and-shoot, the MV300i takes care of the details.

Weighing just 550 grams, it is one of the most compact and lightweight digital camcorders in the Canon range. Despite its small size, the Canon MV300i comes complete with such features as 10x Optical zoom lens, an Image Stabilizer, a colour LCD screen with colour viewfinder and a compact lithium battery system. A range of Digital Effects mean your creative potential is maximised at minimal cost.

RRP \$1999

● Canon



Canon MV3iMC Digital Video Camera

- Canon Image Stabilizer
- Canon 10x zoom lens with 40x Digital zoom
- Flexible LCD view screen — Colour viewfinder
- PCM Digital sound
- Multi-Media Card mix effects
- High-resolution digital video and still

images

- Effortless connection to a TV or VCR
- Plug it into any DV-ready computer
- MultiMediaCard Slot (DPOF compatible)
- New Stereo microphone system
- 800,000 pixel RGB Progressive Scan CCD

Palm-sized Video in a Class of its own. The world's smallest digital video camera, the MV3iMC incorporates an array of miniaturisation innovations to set new standards in image quality, compactness and versatility. It is the first Canon digital video to take advantage of the Multimedia Card. By inserting this card, you can take digital still snaps using the MV3iMC's Photo Button. These images can then be directly transferred from the card to your computer without the need for connecting cables, and the search and edit options contained on the Multimedia Card also open up a range of image combination possibilities.

Weighing about the same as a can of soft drink, the MV3iMC provides all the functions and usability required in an ultra compact, stylish all-metal cased, hand-sized package. A camcorder and digital still camera rolled into one, Canon's MV3iMC offers exceptional value.

RRP \$3699

● Canon



Canon PowerShot S20

- 3.34 Megapixel
- 2048 x 1536 pixel resolution
- CompactFlash Type II
- USB interface

A 3.3 megapixel digital still camera with a zoom lens, the PowerShot S20 is ideal for users looking for the highest overall performance in a great looking ultra-compact metal body.

The camera has selectable resolution up to 2,048 x 1,536 pixels. This enables it to produce photo quality prints up to 20 x 25cm – a breakthrough in consumer digital cameras.

Other innovative features include the Mode Dial and Omni-Selector buttons, which help users to easily control the PowerShot's extensive list of features. The 6.5–13mm (equivalent to 32–64mm in 35mm format) all-glass, aspherical zoom lens enhances sharpness.

RRP \$1699

● Canon



Kodak DC3400

- Two-megapixel resolution means exceptional detail and brilliance – up to 8" x 10" prints.
- Its 2x optical zoom delivers crisper close-ups, and its 3x digital zoom lets you get even closer.
- User-friendly controls make the DC3400 quick to learn and easy to use.
- Zoom Digital Camera, ensuring high quality and no-nonsense performance.
- Get connected quickly and easily with its USB and serial cables – it's easy to download, organize, and e-mail your pictures.
- Print your pictures with convenience from your own printer.

Code: A5579

RRP \$849.00

● Harris Technology

Where to buy these products?

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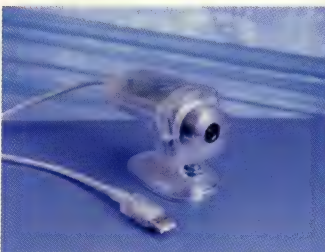
D-Link DSC-350 Digital

The D-Link Digital Camera is a three-in-one camera that combines the features of a digital still capture camera with a digital video camera and a PC digital web camera in one convenient pocket size device.

The camera comes with powerful digital photo/video editing and video conferencing software that lets you print, store, share, edit, e-mail, or even post the captured memories to the Web. A USB connection makes it easy to connect the camera to a PC to download stored images or video for editing. The digital camera comes with a lifetime warranty.

RRP\$349 incl GST.

● D-Link



D-Link Web Cam DSB-C300

The D-Link Web Cam is a high resolution USB digital video camera. It combines state of the art optical technology, hands free audio microphone, and complete audiovisual software. As a fully contained unit, no video capture card or additional hardware is necessary. The unit simply attaches via a standard USB connection to a PC or USB hub. The Web Cam also delivers fast vision and clear sound. The hands free microphone combines to allow you to record sound to be added to your videos.

RRP \$149 (inc GST)

● D-Link



Sony DSC-P1 — Digital Still Camera

The new Cyber-shot DSC-P1 is a pocket-sized camera which is easy to use with class-leading resolution and a powerful zoom.

The P1 captures high resolution images at

up to 3.3 megapixels, the highest resolution found in a small camera, and has a powerful 3x optical/6x digital zoom to catch far-away events, both of which have been unachievable in this category of digital cameras until now.

Images are captured on Sony's Memory Stick media, a sturdy, removable flash memory card that can be connected with dozens of other electronics products.

The camera features Clip Motion which is a recording mode that allows the user to take a series of images and then connect them as continuous frames. The GIFF animation file is processed on board the camera and is then stored onto the Memory Stick and is ready to download to your PC. The DSC-P1 is just 113.0 wide x 53.9 high x 43.8mm deep. Weighs just over 200g. Available in November 2000. RRP \$1,999

● Sony



MVC-CD1000 — Digital CD Camera

The new Sony Mavica camera combines the flexibility and high capacity of 156 MB 3 1/2-inch CD-R with an easy-to-use camera.

Each CD-R for Sony's new CD-R Mavica camera can hold up to 160, 1600x1200 (2.1 mega-pixel) images – the equivalent of more than four rolls of 36-exposure film. At around \$8.00 a disc and no processing required, the camera provides instant shots at a fraction of the cost of film.

The Mavica MVC-CD1000 offers advanced picture quality, including 2.1 mega-pixel resolution and the ability to shoot in TIFF and high quality MPEG (MPEG HQ) modes. Images captured with the MVC-CD1000 can be recorded in several modes, including JPEG compression or TIFF in images sizes up to 1600x1200 pixels. The MVC-CD1000's has a powerful 10x optical zoom – equivalent to a 35mm camera 390mm lens.

Features a TTL viewfinder. The camera also features Super SteadyShot® optical image stabilisation, built in flash, MPEG on-screen playback, Rechargeable InfoLithium battery with Stamina technology, USB connection, precision digital zoom and range of manual adjustments. Includes five one-time writeable CD-Rs.

RRP \$2,999 (inc GST)

● Sony



Canon PowerShot G1

- 3.34 Megapixel
- 3x Zoom lens (34-102mm – 35mm equivalent)
- Full photographic control
- Movie clip mode, capturing sound and video clips

Fully featured 3.34 megapixel digital camera designed for the advanced amateur and semi-professional photographer. Combining of Canon's fast f/2.0, 3x (34-102mm – 35mm equivalent) optical zoom lens and CCD image sensor, the PowerShot G1 delivers outstanding image quality. 12 shooting modes, centre-weighted and spot metering, and movie capture. Incl. Adobe PhotoShop LE.

Advanced dual mode autofocus ensures images are sharp, and always clear on the "vari-angle" LCD monitor. With CompactFlash Type II storage and the long-life "Li-ion" Battery.

RRP \$1999 (available November 2000)

● Canon

Other Items Including Software



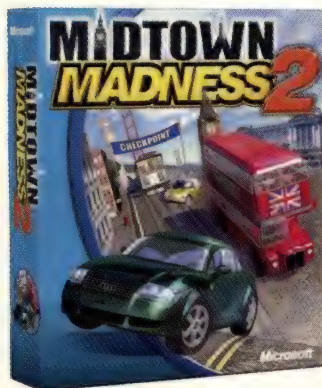
Casio PV750

The affordable palm-sized PDA with wireless email capability – Built-in Email Capability via IrDA port. Functions include: Contacts – Business, Personal & 5 User files, Scheduler – view up to three months or weekly or daily views. Independent alarm for appointments, To Do & Reminder functions, Quick Memo – up to 5 user files, Expense Manager, Home/World Time, Secret function and Games.

Code: A3560

Price: \$299.00

● Harris Technology



Midtown Madness 2

MTM2 the over-the-top urban racer sequel to the award winning Midtown Madness, one of the top selling racing games of 1999. Two new locations, nine new vehicles master the tricks of racing as a Stunt Driver in San Francisco or a Cabbie in London.

Code: B1248

Price: \$88.55

● Harris Technology



Verbatim CDs 10-Pack

Verbatim CD Recordable Media – 10 Pack
74 minute, 650 MB, 1x-2x
Code: 76731
Price: \$18.95

● Harris Technology



Personal Firewall

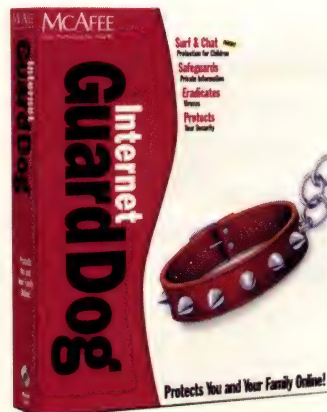
McAfee Personal Firewall is an easy-to-use firewall designed to help block threatening Internet traffic and hackers from accessing home or office PCs.

McAfee Personal Firewall software features a quick, easy set-up process that guides even novice computer users through the process of customising the firewall. Once installed, McAfee Personal Firewall runs transparently in the background to filter communications to and from a user's system.

By filtering out potentially dangerous hacker attempts, McAfee Personal Firewall protects consumers from efforts to change or steal files and information stored on a PC, such as credit card numbers and passwords. The software also prevents dangerous files, such as a Trojan or Denial of Service agent, from being placed on a user's hard disk.

RRP: \$49.90 (ex GST)

● Network Associates



Internet Guard Dog

Internet Guard Dog software from Network Associates offers PC users comprehensive protection from chat room predators, objectionable material, viruses and security threats on the Internet.

Internet Guard Dog provides protection for children to surf and chat on the Internet safely. It also safeguards private information from potential hackers, preventing credit card numbers and vital passwords from being obtained.

A full version of McAfee's VirusScan is also integrated into Internet Guard Dog, blocking harmful viruses and Trojans from entering a PC and destroying critical information.

RRP: \$79.95 (ex GST)

● Network Associates



Xircor Rex

Access information on the run with the Xircor Rex 5000. Credit card-size PDA keeps you in touch, up-to-date, and on track wherever your business takes you. Small, ultra-slim design, crisp, easy to read screen.

Enter, store and synchronise crucial data with your PC, including schedules, address & task lists, memos, Web content & more. Instant access to everything anywhere, anytime.

Features:

- Smallest, take anywhere information accessory

- Share data between PC and Rex using TruSync software
- Attach directly to notebook
- On-the-go data entry
- Six month battery life
- Contacts, Calendar, To-Do Lists, Memos, Clock w/alarm.

Two models:

REX 5000

RRP \$140

REX 5001 (with Docking Station)

RRP \$155

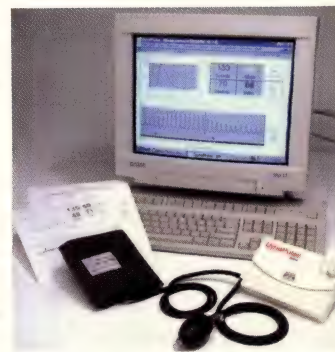
● Available from:

Computer Hardware of Aust.

(03) 9251 3111

Express Data (02) 8336 5100

Tech Pacific (02) 9381 6000



DynaPulse Blood Pressure Recorder — Home Model

The DynaPulse is a clinical accuracy blood pressure and pulse monitoring device that connects to your computer via a serial port. It displays the actual blood pressure wave form on screen as a visual confirmation of measurement accuracy. More importantly, systolic, diastolic, and mean arterial pressures are actually measured rather than calculated. Measurements are stored in a database allowing long term trends as a result of diet, exercise, or hypertensive medication to be viewed. The home version maintains data for up to six people. Cat No 16000 Usually \$399 Members Price \$369

● MicroGram Computers

Members Free Ad

For Sale

486 upgraded Amstrad PC, 50Mhz, 16 MB RAM, 1x 2 Gig HDD, 1 x 130 MB HDD, 1 x 1.44 FDD, sound card & speakers, CD-ROM drive, DOS 6.00 (plus set of disks for DOS 6.22), MS Works 2.00, Windows 3.11, includes manuals and original disks. Also games, Fantasy, MicroCAD & PC Draft. \$50 Harley (03) 9570 8839 (BH & AH)

Where to buy these products?

● Vendor listing – Page 37.

Build a “Quick and Dirty” Search Engine with Python and PHP

Peter Dann

Occasionally I have found a need to locate items within a large collection of HTML documents that I have been unable to search using a conventional search engine.

This article describes *qdse*, a “quick and dirty search engine” built to address this need. The program provides full text searching of HTML documents that may be located locally on a user’s machine (for example, programming documentation), on a corporate intranet (for example, product information), or on the Internet.

The version described here runs locally on the author’s Windows machine, where it is used to search the documentation for PHP, a server-side scripting language, stored on a locally installed Web server. The program can easily be adapted to other uses.

While *qdse* is a useful tool in its own right, it also illustrates in one compact application, key features of some powerful but freely available software and programming tools that could be of interest to any Web developer, including:

- **Python** — the programming language *qdse* uses to create a document index.
- **MySQL** — the database *qdse* uses to store the document index.
- **PHP** — the server-side scripting language *qdse* uses to interrogate the document index and present details of *hits* on a Web page.

This article describes the overall design of *qdse* and explains key sections of the underlying Python and PHP code. While this is not a full-blown tutorial for either language, it should provide a useful insight into how these tools can be used to build a real Web application.

The Key Components

qdse consists of three components:

- 1 A MySQL database which stores:
 - the URLs and titles of all the documents to be searched
 - a record for each unique word that appears in these documents
 - records indicating which words appear in which documents
- 2 An indexing program written in Python, which creates and populates the tables in the document index database
- 3 A Web page user interface where the user enters a list of terms for which to search, and which displays the search result as a list of hyperlinked *hits*. This interface uses PHP to interrogate the document index database and present the resulting *hits* to the user.

As mentioned above, MySQL, Python and PHP are all available at no cost. For more details, see “Obtaining the core components” at the end of this article.

The Document Index Database

At the heart of *qdse* is the document index database that stores details of the documents to be searched.

In *qdse*, this database runs under MySQL, an open-source database program which is a popular choice for Web development projects. MySQL *understands* standard SQL — a widely-used language for querying databases. It is well-documented, is available in both Windows and Unix/Linux versions and

integrates easily with PHP, the language in which *qdse*’s user interface is written.

MySQL does not implement some features associated with fully-featured databases, including support for transactions and foreign key relationships, and is optimised instead for speed. These limitations are not a problem in many Web applications, including *qdse*.

MySQL runs as a server daemon under both Windows NT and Unix/Linux. Users can communicate with the database server using client programs such as MySQLManager that come with the application, as well as through directly through code (for example, using Python and PHP).

Tables Structure

qdse’s document index database consists of three tables.

Table “urls” lists the URL and title of each document the application has indexed, together with a unique ID for each record. Once a site has been indexed and is ready to be searched, this table might contain entries such as those depicted in figure 1 below.

Table “words” contains one entry for each unique word found in the indexed documents. No word appears more than once, and each word has a unique ID. Once a site has been indexed, this table might contain entries such as those in figure 2, following next page.

id	url	title
1	http://localhost/phpmanual/appendices.html	Appendices
2	http://localhost/phpmanual/calling-user-functions.html	Calling User Functions
3	http://localhost/phpmanual/class.dir.html	Untitled
4	http://localhost/phpmanual/config-apache.html	Apache Module

Figure 1. urls table

id	word
1	php
2	manual
3	appendices
4	table

Figure 2. words table

Table “words_x_url” shows which words appear at which URL. This table refers to words and URLs by their unique IDs. Once populated, it might contain entries like the following:

word_id	url_id
179	6
180	6
1	7
2	7
171	7

Figure 3. words_x_url table

The first entry shown above indicates that in this particular document index database the word whose ID is 179 appears in the document whose ID is 6.

Querying the Database Manually

When developing a database application we often need to pass queries to the database manually, rather than through a programming language. When running mySQL under Windows, an easy way to do this is use mySqlManager, a database client program that comes with the Windows distribution.

For example, to find the word that has ID 179 we can pass an SQL query to the database. We type the query into the Query tab of MySqlManager (Figure 4)

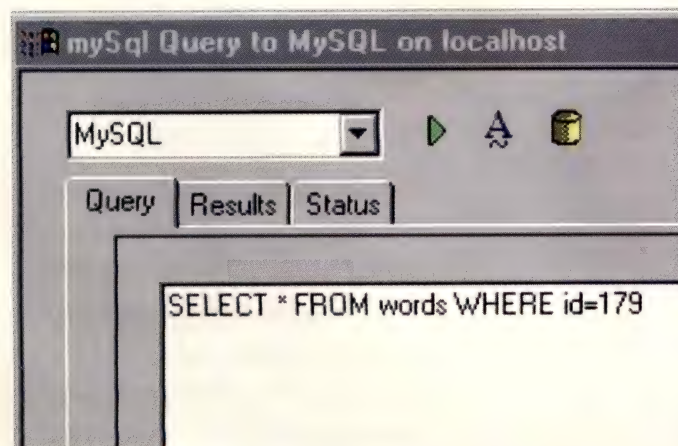


Figure 4. Entering an SQL query in MySqlManager. The results are available in the Results tab.

then click the small triangular icon to execute the query. In this particular database, the word whose ID is 179 is “virtual”. Result shown in figure 5.

To get the IDs of all the documents this which this word appears, we would execute an SQL query such as the following:

```
SELECT url_id FROM words_x_url
WHERE word_id = 179
```

The Indexing Program

So, how are the tables described above created and populated in the first place?

While we could enter the information manually using an application like MySqlManager, obviously this would be time consuming and error-prone. What we need is a program that will do the work for us. This program should:

- create the tables described above
- identify all the HTML documents to be indexed
- open each document in turn — extract its title and a list of all the unique words in the document
- insert a record in the urls table for every document opened showing its URL and title
- insert a record in the words table for each new word encountered
- insert a record in the words_x_url table each time the program finds a word (in a document) not previously found in that document.

Perl or Python?

While there are many languages in which it would be possible to write such a program, two obvious candidates for this task are Perl and Python.

Both of these so-called “glue languages” excel at processing large quantities of text. Both offer excellent facilities for extracting information from one place (for example, from a file or Web resource) and placing it somewhere else (for example, into a database table). Both languages are interpreted, rather than compiled, which tends to speed development. Both languages are distributed under an open source licence and are available for free.

Perl’s strengths include its large user base and the extensive range of libraries available for performing specialised tasks (for example, creating and manipulating PDF files). On the other hand, Perl’s syntax is notoriously obscure and this tends to make it difficult for anyone who is not programming in Perl fulltime to maintain Perl code. Perl’s support for object orientation is rather inelegant.

Python shares many of Perl’s strengths, while offering some additional benefits, including clean support for object-orientation. One unusual but surprisingly helpful feature of the language is that white space is significant: the level of code indentation indicates how lines of code are organised into blocks. At first glance

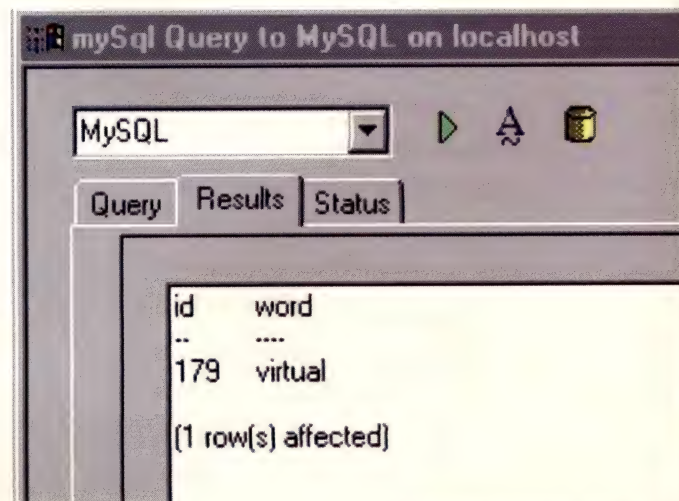


Figure 5. Viewing the results of the query

this may seem like a trivial “advantage”, but it is an advantage one quickly comes to appreciate when actually working with the language. Add a variable naming convention that allows the use of plain text variable names and the result is code that is pleasantly clean and easy to maintain.

Creating the Tables

The first task performed by qdse’s indexing program ‘qdse.py’ is to create the database tables described above.

Listing 1 shows the code that creates the words table:

Line 1 imports (ie. makes accessible to our program) a Python module called “MySQLdb”. This module provides us with objects and functions we need to access a MySQL database.

Line 2 declares a global variable that holds the name of our document index database.

Lines 4 to 13 define a function called “create_WORDS_table()”. Assuming that we have already created an empty database called qdse using

MySqlManager, **line 5** makes a connection to this database, while

line 6 creates a cursor object we will use to pass queries to the database.

In **lines 7 to 11** we construct the query that will create the words table, before executing the query in **line 12**.

It is worth noting that the table we have created has an index for the “word” field (line 10). This dramatically improves the performance of the

```
1 import MySQLdb
2 qdse_db = "qdse"
3
4 def create_WORDS_table():
5     conn = MySQLdb.Connection(db=qdse_db)
6     cursor = conn.cursor()
7     sql = """CREATE TABLE WORDS (
8         id INT AUTO_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY NOT NULL,
9         word VARCHAR(15) NOT NULL,
10        INDEX (word)
11    )"""
12     result = cursor.execute(sql)
13     conn.close()
```

Listing 1. Python function to create a database table.

indexing program when looking up or inserting records in the words table.

qdse uses code similar to that shown in Listing 1 to create the other tables the application requires.

Identifying the Documents To Be Indexed

In any search engine indexing program a key routine is the function which determines which pages are to be indexed, and can therefore be searched by the user. Fully-fledged search engines use a range of different approaches to this task. So-called “spiders”, for example, crawl through page after page identifying links, and then following these links to find yet more links, and so on.

The original version of qdse was designed to search 1100 documents on an intranet site, the titles of which were listed, as hyperlinks, on a single page.

The version published here takes a

similar (and equally simple) approach, identifying the pages to be indexed, and hence made searchable, by parsing the virtual index page returned by the Web server when passed a directory name.

On the author’s machine the documentation for PHP is installed in a directory named “phpmanual”, immediately beneath the document root of a locally running version of the Apache Web server. Entering the URL “http://localhost/phpmanual/” in a Web browser causes Apache to send a virtual index page listing all the files in the directory “phpmanual”. It is this virtual index page that “qdse.py” reads and parses to determine which pages to index for searching.

Listing 2 shows the function responsible for this task.

The square brackets at the end of **line 2** indicate that the variable “result_list” is initialised to hold an empty list. Lists are one of Python’s key intrinsic data types, and the language offers powerful list-manipulating facilities.

Line 3 constructs a path to our virtual index page, which we open in **line 4**. The code at **line 5** reads each line of the page into a list called “lines”.

Lines 6 to 11 create a “regular expression object”. Regular expressions are patterns used to find, extract or alter content in a line of text that matches the pattern. Regular expression syntax is quite complex, and I won’t attempt to explain it in detail here. Suffice it to say that here we are looking for the shortest section of text in any line which is preceded by a double quote mark (line 7) and ends with “.html” (line 10).

```
1 def get_urls_list():
2     result_list = []
3     url_list_path = os.path.join("http://localhost/phpmanual/")
4     url_object = urllib.urlopen(url_list_path)
5     lines = url_object.readlines()
6     reo = re.compile(r"""
7         \"
8         (?P<url>
9         (\S*?)
10        \.html)
11    """, re.VERBOSE|re.IGNORECASE|re.DOTALL)
12     for line in lines:
13         result = reo.search(line)
14         if result:
15             url = result.group('url')
16             full_url = urlparse.urljoin(url_list_path, url)
17             result_list.append(full_url)
18     return result_list
```

Listing 2. Python function to extract list of URLs from HTML page.

Members Free Ad

For Sale

Pinnacle Studio 400 ver 1.04b video editing program (includes Video Director 200), complete with hardware, cables, disks, CDs and manuals. \$50 Above prices or make me an offer. Harley (03) 9570 8839 (BH & AH)

If found, such text will be stored as a so-called “group” called “url” (line 8).

Line 12 sets up a loop allowing us to examine in turn each line of the virtual index page opened at line 4.

Within the loop, **line 13** tests whether there is any text present in the line which matches our regular expression. If so, it stores information about the match in the variable “result”. **Line 15** extracts the actual matched text and stores it in the variable “url”. **Line 16** converts the URL from a relative pathname to a fully-qualified pathname.

The the function “get-urls_list()” is quite adequate for the purpose for which qdse was originally designed. However, this is one routine it would be necessary to extend if adapting qdse to search a more complex site.

Parsing Each Document

Once the indexing program has created a list of all the pages we wish to index, it needs to open each one in turn and extracts:

- the document’s title
- a list of all the unique words in the document

Assuming the variable “urls_list” contains the fully-qualified URLs of all the documents we wish to index for our search engine, the code in **Listing 3**, along with some helper function we will discuss shortly, does the job.

In **lines 1 to 3** we open each document in turn and read its entire contents into the variable “text”. This variable contains the whole of the document, including all HTML tags.

```
1 for url in urls_list:
2     url_object = urllib.urlopen(url)
3     text = url_object.read()
4     p = myParser()
5     p.feed(text)
6     p.close()
7     parsed_text = p.get_text()
8     title = p.get_title()
9     if title == "":
10         title = "Untitled"
11     ts = text_splitter(parsed_text)
12     word_list = ts.get_split_text()
```

Listing 3. Master routine for extracting title and word list from HTML documents.

In **line 4** we create an HTML parser object of class myParser(). This class, defined elsewhere in “qdse.py”, is derived from Python’s HTMLParser class and extended to provide methods allowing us to read the document’s title and the text outside all HTML tags. (The implementation of these methods — not discussed here — is surprisingly easy thanks to the elegant design of Python’s native HTMLParser class, and requires only a few lines of code.)

After feeding the text of the entire document to our parser object in **line 5**, we close the parser, then use its “get_text()” method at **line 7** to read all the text in the document outside the HTML tags. Similarly, we call the parser’s “get_title()” method at **line 8** to read the document’s title.

At **line 11** we pass the text extracted from the document to an object of another user-defined helper class called “text_splitter”. This returns the parsed text as a list of unique words, after first performing some filtering to exclude words in which we are not interested (including very long words, and common words such as *and* and *the*).

Once we have all this information, we insert the relevant details into our database tables. The code to do this is similar to the code used to create the database tables (although of course the actual SQL is different).

The User Interface

Once the document index database is created and populated, we need some way of searching this information to locate documents that contain particular words.

In qdse, users enter the terms they are searching for in a simple form, then click a Search button. The same page displays a list of *hits*, as shown in Fig. 6.

Behind the scenes, the work of constructing appropriate database queries and then interpreting and displaying the results is done by PHP.

A Quick Introduction to PHP

PHP is a free, open-source server-side scripting language and environment. PHP is broadly similar in its capacities to Cold Fusion and Active Server Pages.

To use PHP, an author embeds PHP-specific tags in an HTML page, as in **Listing 4**.

When a PHP-enabled Web server encounters the tags “<?php” and “?>”, it passes the code they enclose to PHP for processing. Depending on the installation, PHP itself may be loaded as a Web server module (like a .DLL), or it may exist as a stand-alone executable. PHP processes the code passed to it then typically returns text to the Web

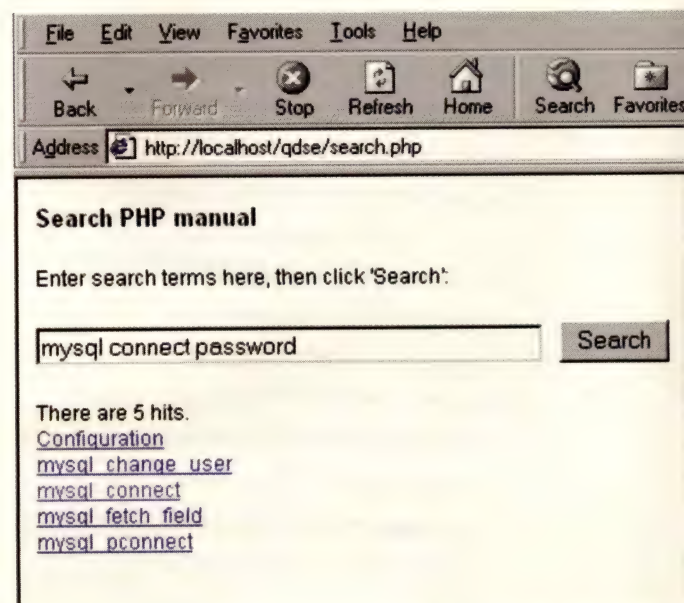


Figure 6. The qdse user interface


```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<TITLE>Basic PHP demonstration</TITLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY>
<?php
    print("Hello world!");
?>
</BODY>
</HEAD>
```

Listing 4. A simple Web page on the server, including PHP tags.

```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<TITLE>Basic PHP demonstration</TITLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY>Hello world!
</BODY>
</HEAD>
```

Listing 5. The same page, as received by the browser.

server for inclusion in the page to be sent back to the user. PHP's syntax shares many similarities with C.

Listing 5 shows the page from Listing 4 as it would be sent to a user's browser. The user never sees the PHP code itself, only the results this code generates.

Many different servers are capable of running PHP, including Apache, IIS4 and Netscape.

The Interface Code

qds's user interface consists of two pages:

- "search.php", a page of HTML code with embedded PHP tags. This page contains the form where the user enters the terms to be searched for, and is the only page the user sees.
- "search.php.inc", a page of PHP code which contains several helper functions called from "search.php".

Listing 6 shows the code for the form in "search.php" where the user enters the terms to be searched for.

In **line 1**, the *action* of the form is set to the URL of the current page. This means that when the user clicks the Search button, the current page will be redisplayed.

The interesting part of the form is **line 5**, which is enclosed in PHP tags. PHP makes the contents of all form variables available as similarly-named program variables. In PHP, all variable names begin with "\$". After the user submits this form (causing the current page to

be redisplayed), the variable *\$terms* will hold whatever value the user previously entered in the form field named "terms".

If the variable *\$terms* does contain a value, the *isset()* function will return true, causing the "echo" statement to send a stream of text to the browser populating the form's input field with whatever values the user entered before clicking the Search button. The input field will therefore appear to retain the text the user previously entered.

Listing 7, also part of "search.php", shows the master routine which analyses the user's search terms, then calls a range of helper functions to interrogate the document index database and display a resulting list of *hits*. (Some error-processing routines have been removed to make the code easier to read.)

Lines 3 and 4 split the user's search terms entry into an array of separate words.

Lines 7 and 8 create a connection to MySQL and select the document index database.

Line 11 calls a helper function to create a temporary table where we will insert the IDs of all the documents which match one or more of the user's search

```
1 <?php
2 // identify search terms
3 $pattern = " ";
4 $search_term_array = split($pattern, $terms);
5
6 // connect to database
7 $conn = mysql_connect("localhost");
8 mysql_select_db("qds", $conn);
9
10 // query database
11 create_matches_table($conn, $num_search_terms);
12 identify_urls_with_matches($search_term_array, $conn);
13 $num_search_terms = count($search_term_array);
14 $result = get_hits($conn, $num_search_terms);
15
16 // Print hit details
17 show_hit_count($result);
18 show_hits($result);
19 ?>
```

Listing 7. Master PHP routine for processing search terms and displaying hits.

terms. (This function has a similar purpose to the code in Listing 1, which created a database table from Python.)

```
function create_matches_table($conn) {
    $query = "CREATE TEMPORARY TABLE urls_with_matches (url_ID INT)";
    $result = mysql_query($query, $conn);
}
```

At **line 12** we call another helper function to populate the temporary table. This function executes a series of SQL queries, one for each search term the user has entered. For example, if the user has entered the search terms “mysql password”, this helper function issues the following queries:

```
INSERT INTO urls_with_matches
SELECT DISTINCT words_x_url.url_id
FROM words_x_url
INNER JOIN words ON words_x_url.word_id = words.id
WHERE words.word LIKE 'mysql%'
```

```
INSERT INTO urls_with_matches
SELECT DISTINCT words_x_url.url_id
FROM words_x_url
INNER JOIN words ON words_x_url.word_id = words.id
WHERE words.word LIKE 'password%'
```

Next, the helper function “get_hits()” retrieves a *result* object containing the URL and title of each document in which all of the user’s search terms appears. To get this information, “get_hits()” executes a query such as the following (adjusting the last line to match the number of search terms):

```
SELECT urls.url, urls.title
FROM urls_with_matches, urls
WHERE urls_with_matches.url_ID = urls.id
GROUP BY urls_with_matches.url_ID
HAVING COUNT(urls_with_matches.url_ID)=2
```

Finally, at **lines 17 and 18**, we pass the *result* object to the helper functions “show_hit_count()” and “show_hits()” to list the number of hits and print a hyperlinked list of document titles. **Listing 8** shows the code for “show_hits()”.

PHP offers several different ways of analysing the result of a database query. The method used here is to treat each row in the *result* object as a *row* object, and then to use the C style **object->property** syntax we see in lines 3 and 4 to access the data we are interested in.

Lines 5 to 7 ensure that if we have been unable to determine a title for any document we print its URL instead. **Line 8** actually writes the details of each *hit* to the page.

```
1 function show_hits($result) {
2     while (($row = mysql_fetch_object($result))) {
3         $url = $row->url;
4         $title = $row->title;
5         if ( strtolower($title) == "untitled" ) {
6             $title = $url;
7         }
8         printf("<br><A href='%s'>%s</A>\n", $url, $title);
9     }
10 }
```

Listing 8. PHP function for displaying list of
<i>hits</i><p> retrieved from document index database.

Obtaining the Core Components

MySQL, Python, PHP and Apache are all available in Windows and Linux versions.

To learn more and download your own versions, see the following addresses:

<http://www.mysql.com/>
<http://www.python.org/>
<http://www.php.net/>
<http://www.apache.org/>


Source Code

The source code for qdse accompanies this article. The code consists of three files:

qdse.py
search.php
search.php.inc

These files will be available for download from *PC Update Online* at: <http://www.melbpc.org.au/pcupdate> or can be obtained by e-mail direct from the author.

About the Author

Peter Dann, pdann@melbpc.org.au is a Melb PC member, Web developer and technical writer. 

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Saturn V — Apollo 11

Part 3 — The Path to the Moon

As threatened, this month we will run last month's CASE 1 to 3 and this month's CASE 4 codes in a FOR...NEXT loop to plot four possible routes. As seen in Listing 3, we will take a working version of Listing 2 and hack it to a new program. In each loop, we need to do the near-earth path calculations but we don't need to draw anything on screen, so we will adopt the big earth-to-moon WINDOW on which the four paths can be drawn. Colours 1 to 4, blue/green/cyan/red, are used to distinguish the four routes using different values for the notional apogee. Note that we have shortened the step between the 2nd and 3rd routes to get the particular ones desired; FOR...NEXT loops can be fiddled with like this without breaking anything.

I suggest, when you have apollo11.bas, Listing 2, working, you "copy as" apolloop.bas, then carefully modify this as detailed in Listing 3. Originally I drew the near-earth screen, on just the first run (colour = 1), but changed to this simpler approach. This explains the commented lines like "IF colour = 1..." in Listing 2; sorry for the confusion.

In Fig 5 we see that Route 1, blue, passes well in front of the moon and goes well beyond it before swinging back behind it to head for the earth. The moon, blue in this case, is only drawn when Apollo's x coordinate exceeds the moon's xm so we see where Apollo first did this from the (lowest) start of the thick blue moon trace. Unfortunately, this route heads for the



Ken Holmes

left of the earth and is not a smart move since it would involve a re-entry against the earth's rotation, an 8% greater velocity relative to the atmosphere and a 16% increase of Kinetic Energy to be dissipated by the heat shield. This would probably spell disaster.

Route 2, green, passes closer beyond the moon and heads back to the right side of earth appropriate to a good re-entry with the earth's rotation. After the explosion 3 days into Apollo 13's outward journey they had no other

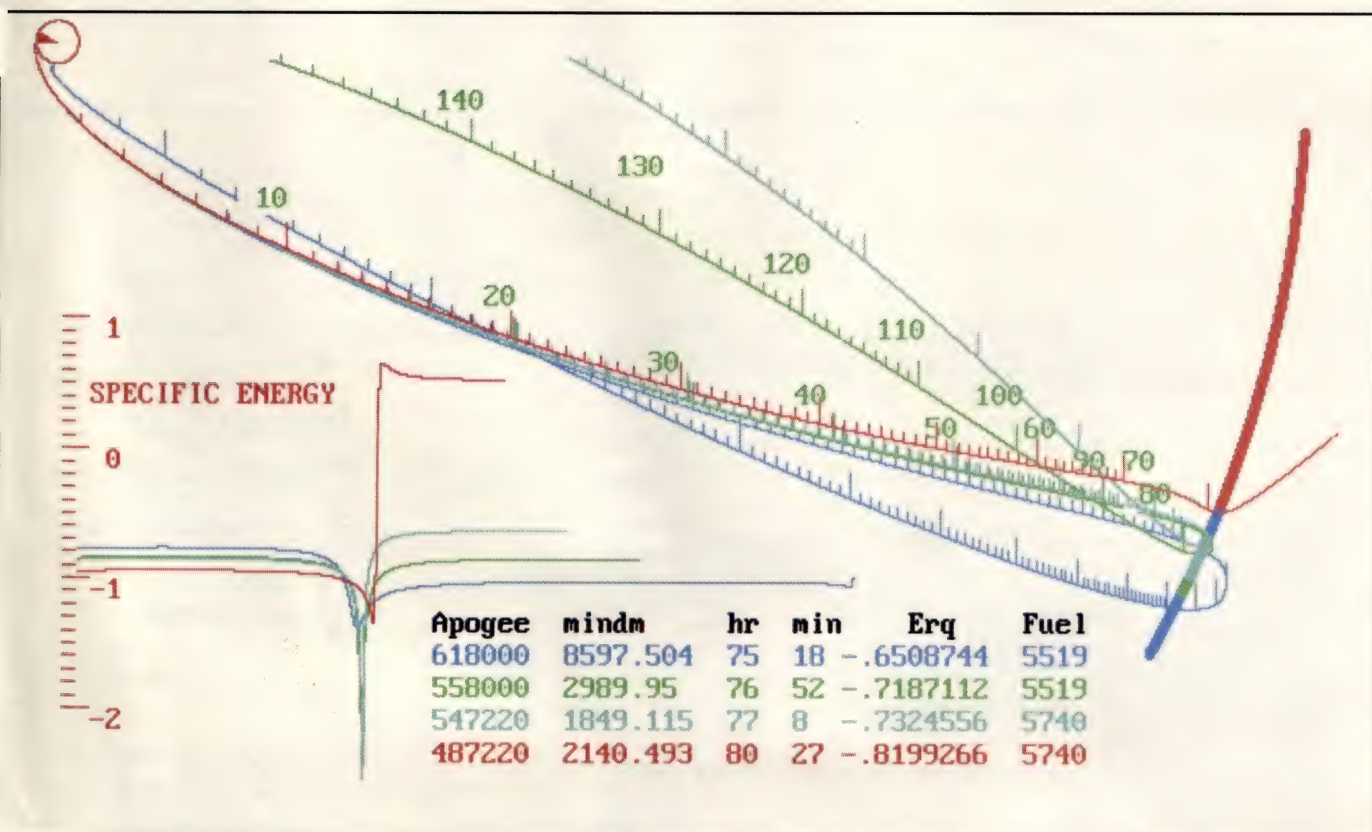


Figure 5.

option than to adjust to this route and survive another 3 days to go around the moon and line up for earth re-entry. All Apollos would of course need to return on similar courses. Note where the green moon trace starts (and is superimposed over the blue one).

Route 3, cyan, is the way to go since it passes the other side of the moon at about 110 km altitude, from where retrofiring can insert into moon orbit. It needed much trial and error to find a combination, of notional apogee and the timing of the TLI burn or, really, its exact position in earth orbit, to achieve this in approximately the same 77 hours as did Apollo 11. In the process, I changed the calculation time interval, ti, with an effect that we need to change the critical notional apogee from 549200 (in Listing 2) to 547220. You may note the cyan moon trace and beyond it the remnant of the first blue moon trace. We are not concerned about this return route, which would result in a highly eccentric earth orbit, since there is no intention to use it.

On Route 4, red, Apollo starts to curve downwards due to the approaching

moon's gravity but the moon nips in front of it and pulls it sharply upwards, adding to its velocity and "whipping" it off into space. NOT recommended for Apollo, but very useful for free boosts, as in the Grand Tour of the planets and many other space projects. Next time you see such things on television, you will recognise the characteristic "elbow" in the paths passing the planets. The red moon trace continues until it goes off the screen.

Note the colour coded plots for Specific Energy; on approaching the moon there is a dip (as the moon's gravity retards Apollo) and, after passing, a recovery, to varying extents, near to the former values. However, Route 4 leaves with positive energy, or above escape velocity, so that it would never return to the earth/moon system but move to a solar orbit. Well, hardly ever; it is possible that after many years it might find itself in the earth's vicinity and have its orbit modified by the earth's gravity.

Note the table printed out for notional apogee, closest moon approach, time, required energy, Erq, and remnant fuel. The moon's radius is 1738 km, so the

1849 km from the centre represents an altitude of 111 km. The apogee variations appear large but, in fact, they entail quite small differences in required energy. The fuel flow rate during the Stage 3 TLI burn was 221 kg/sec and the remaining fuel only varied by 221 kg or 1 second over the extremes. We only burnt in whole second amounts and the code backed off velocity to exact Erq without "recovering" excess fuel burnt. This illustrates the great sensitivity of results to the performance and control of the burn; in practice it is not possible to achieve perfection and Apollo 11 had two correction burns scheduled in the middle of the journey (using the Service Module motor). The first was described as a modest correction and the second one required was so small that it was not conducted. Not worth any small risk of a malfunction or overcorrection. Bearing in mind that reality is 3D and it is necessary to approach the moon off the orbital plane, if the proposed landing site is not on the equator, to get into an inclined orbit which passes over the landing point. A polar orbit would be required if it is desired to inspect or land at the poles, which offer a less

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rigorous climate for a long term lunar base.

It is not difficult to extend the program to 3D and it would reliably calculate any paths required. However, a human mind is necessary to interpret the results and contrive variations to achieve a specific goal. To assist this, it needs versatile graphical presentation, preferably some form of stereo such as the mirror, red/green goggles or more sophisticated virtual reality devices. Also it needs facilities to vary parameters such as rocket thrusts, timings and directions over appropriate ranges on a trial and error basis, with printed accurate figures for critical desired results such as altitude above the lunar surface or orientation of an orbit. The possibilities in pre-planning are endless and, during an actual mission the path will diverge to some degree from that planned; enormous amounts of contingency planning would be necessary for avoidance on what to do. In orbital dynamics, outcomes are often counter-intuitive and it needs lots of practice to inculcate the correct line of logic to apply in various circumstances. Extra information would be available from on-board instruments such as radar altimeters, attitude gyroscopes and astral navigation telescopes; these must be able to be fed into the program.

Notice the characteristic figure eight shape of trips to the moon; for fuel economy and re-entry energy, the only sensible way to leave earth, and return to it, is with the earth's rotation, and heading in front of the moon results in approaching it with least relative velocity, lessening the velocity change needed to get into orbit.

Next month we will revert to your working copy of the Listing 2 program as a basis to continue with the Apollo 11 journey to approach the moon and get into a near circular orbit of it. ■

Listing 3

Assuming you have a WORKING copy of Listing 2, named as, perhaps, APOLLO11.BAS, "Copy As" APOLLOOP.BAS to provide the basis for this separate program.

Listing2, line 15 is - "apogee = 549200". Replace this with

```
colour = 0 'ie. 4 lines
FOR apogee = 618000 TO 440000 STEP -60000
  IF apogee = 498000 THEN apogee = 547220 'note 547220
  colour = colour + 1
```

AND, change the final 2 lines (94 & 95, BEFORE SUB Init) to

```
LOOP UNTIL finish = 1 'ie. 2 extra lines
DO: LOOP WHILE INKEY$ = "": finish = 0 'reset for next FOR
NEXT 'end of FOR apogee = ...
DO: LOOP WHILE INKEY$ = ""
```

Now, eliminate line 20, "IF colour=1 THEN" AND next 8 lines including "END IF". (We are not drawing these)

At this location, insert following

```
WINDOW(-10000,10000)-(390000,-290000) 'ie.earth/moon arena
FOR yc=-200000 TO -80000 STEP 40000 'energy scale - units
  LINE (0, yc)-(9000, yc), 4: NEXT
FOR yc=-200000 TO -80000 STEP 4000 'energy scale - tenths
  LINE (0, yc)-(4000, yc), 4: NEXT : COLOR 4
FOR n = -2 TO 1: LOCATE 14 - n * 4, 5: PRINT n: NEXT
LOCATE 19, 26: COLOR 15 'table heading
PRINT "Apogee mindm hr min Erq Fuel"
```

Immediately before "SELECT CASE", change "PSET (x, y), 15" to "PSET (x, y), colour" 'colour coding 4 routes

And, delete previous 3 lines, ie tp = & next 2 lines

Now, in CASE 2, eliminate line 75, "IF colour = 1 THEN" and next 6 lines including "END IF" (not drawing these)

(Note. Originally intended to show Sectors 1 - 3 on screen) before 1st loop only (colour=1) but now eliminating this and will only draw on big WINDOW (covering earth to moon). So you may also delete SUBs Init and Tidyp - Press F2, highlight SUB with cursor then click on "delete"

Replace CASE 3 with simpler version

```
CASE 3: 'COASTING AFTER BURN
  IF t MOD 60 = 0 THEN 'each minute
    IF tm = 190 THEN 'end Sector 3 at 190 min
      Sector = 4: ti = 5: mindm = 400000: flagdm = 0:
    END IF
  END IF
```

And add CASE 4 as follows

```
CASE 4: 'Sector 4, Version 1. MULTIPLE TRIPS AROUND MOON
  IF mindm > dm THEN mindm = dm + 1 'keep adjusting minimum
  IF flagdm = 0 AND dm > mindm THEN 'when minimum passed
    LOCATE 19 + colour, 25: COLOR colour
    PRINT apogee;mindm; hr; min; Erq; CINT(m-61199):flagdm=1
    DO: LOOP WHILE INKEY$ = "" 'print minimum, stop looking
  END IF
  IF t MOD 60 = 0 THEN 'every minute
    IF min = 0 THEN 'every hour, mark time scale
      IF hr<70 OR hr>110 THEN LINE(x,y)-STEP(0, 3000), colour
      PSET (tm * 20, (E - 3) * 40000), colour 'plot energy
      IF hr MOD 10 = 0 THEN 'every 10 hours
        LINE (x, y)-STEP(0, 8000), colour 'mark time scale
        IF colour=2 AND y< -10000 THEN 'print hour (2nd route)
          LOCATE -y / 10000, x / 5000: COLOR colour: PRINT hr
        END IF 'end IF colour
      END IF '10 hour
    END IF 'hour
  END IF 'minute
  IF x > xm THEN CIRCLE (xm, ym), 1000, colour 'draw moon
  IF y > ye THEN Sector = 5 'CASE ELSE will now finish it.
```


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24. The *Organization:* field in private electronic mail or public newsgroup article headers must always be *Melbourne PC User Group, Australia*, the name of the service provider. Any other organisation or business name is permitted only in the four-line (maximum) "signature" text that is optionally inserted at the end of the message or article.
25. Connection of any networking system or device that permits multiple users to share one account simultaneously is not permitted.
26. The *From:* field used in mail and news messages must be the Melb PC assigned user name, e.g. *jjones@melbpc.org.au* not the address where a reply is sought, e.g. *jjones@pobox.com.au*. Such an arrangement should be managed by use of the *Reply-To:* field.
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Total \$.....

Tick ☒

☐ Cheque for above total is enclosed.

or

☐ Debit my card with \$.....

☐ Bankcard / ☐ MasterCard / ☐ Visa

Expires:/.....

Number:

Name on Card

Signature:

Applicant Details

First Name:

Last Name:

Membership Number:

Postal Address:

Postcode:

Telephone

Day (.....)

Evening (.....)

Job Title:

Employer:

Tick ☒

My age is: ☐ 18 or above, ☐ Below 18

I hereby apply for the Internet Service described on this and the previous page

Signature:

Additional Family Members who will share the one account/user name:

Name:

Signature:

Name:

Signature:

Name:

Signature:

Applicant(s) to Complete (CAPITALS, please)

Parent/Guardian to Complete

(If any of the applicants is below the age of 18)

I am the parent/guardian of the applicant. I am aware of the nature of information available through the Internet and support this application.

Name

Telephone

(day) (.....)

Signature:

User Name

List below the user ("login") names you would like, in order of preference, up to eight lowercase characters. Write very clearly, to avoid our confusing certain letters. User names are expressed in lowercase letters and numbers and must represent your real name in some recognisable way, e.g. John J. Jones might request user names such as john, johnj, jjones, etc. Any user name that is already allocated or deemed unsuitable in the opinion of the system administrators will not be allocated.

Choice 1

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Choice 2

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Choice 3

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Choice 4

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Choice 5

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Office Use Only

☒

Tick as applicable

☐

Form and fee correct

☐

Parent of under age applicant contacted (date)/...../2000

☐

Membership database checked and updated

☐

Incomplete form returned to sender (date)/...../2000

☐

Acknowledgment returned to sender (date)/...../2000

Initials of office staff

Special Interest Group Reports

Access

report by Craig Evans

Greetings experienced programmers, newcomers and those in between.

At our last meeting we discussed lots of interesting things, including:

- How to lock the Report screen size
- How to make a field in a Query show data based on another field being null
- How to design a Form for data entry
- Error message "No licence for Access on this machine"
- Photos in Access and the impact on file size
- How to calculate days between dates
- Placing a start and end date on a report heading
- Copy prior record to existing record
- Dates in the period BC
- Attaching Excel to Access

For solutions and amazing discoveries drop in to the Access SIG, second Monday of the month except January. All problems readily accepted. If you are not completely satisfied with our solutions we will happily return your problems with a smile and no questions asked. You will benefit most if you are currently working on a database — but don't let that deter you from coming along. Bring your Access 97 database with you and we'll probably fix it on the spot. All the solutions are simple — some just take longer to figure out.

Daytime

report by Don Buchanan

Firstly some reminders: as usual, there is no meeting of the Daytime SIG in January. Looking ahead to our February meeting, we intend to have a combination of a much needed Q&A session and an SOS (**Share Our Solutions**) morning.

Is it my imagination or are we front row attendees sitting ever closer to the presenter's table in the large SIG room?

We are being pushed forward, that is what is happening — as more and more people attend each month. Certainly it's useful because we are better able to hear and see all that happens.

For a variety of reasons, at our October meeting the popular Q&A session was an extended affair. It began with "how often do we defrag, use anti virus programs and Scandisk etc". Answers ranged from every few days to once a month (and I suspect longer periods).

Then an explanation of HTML was requested. "What is it?" and "How do we remove it when our e-mail messages arrive clogged with HTML code?" That discussion led to an associated query re Outlook Express e-mail. Naturally we immediately went on to a discussion of Internet problems with particular modems, until we were halted and restarted in Q&A mode.

Then an entirely different problem took us via "start", "run", type "msconfig" and tab "startup" to take control of the number of programs to add or remove at startup.

This session finished with a very interesting discussion on where to buy a new computer, and whether to buy generic versus Brand name.

After the break, Graeme presented his skills with "NoteTab Light v4.82" being the freeware version of NoteTab. Starting with suggestions of download home-pages, then showing us some of the many uses of the program.

Text editing is a breeze, one can move quickly around a stack of large files with a simple tabbed interface. Search files, strip HTML tags and format text to your heart's content. Cut and paste chunks of text to your own editor document set up as a "paste board" simply by using the "copy" command.

You have choice of font (fixed width or proportional), call up your document's

statistics, replace typos and more.

Some other features shown were: Quicklist. File reopen. Favourite Documents. Modify text case. Auto scroll and some of the many clip book libraries available from the NoteTab Web site. Graeme's demo was limited only by the available time. An excellent morning for all.

Beginners East "Beast"

report by Gary Taylor

We are now known as the *Beast* SIG (**B**[eginners]**e**ast). Become a beast soon!

This was the first meeting of the group as an "official" SIG and thirty five members enjoyed a thoroughly confusing and controversial introduction to Word for Windows and Excel. Everyone has their own uses for these programs AND their own ways of doing things. The most important stage in Word is to set up the page first! It is awkward to spend hours of typing and revision to make a page look professional and then to find it does not print out as required — all because the printer is following the default setting in Page Setup. The latter may be set at "landscape", incorrect paper size, with huge margins, footers and headers etc. In Excel it is important always to press "enter" to save the information typed into a cell; merely tabbing across instead of pressing "enter" may cause problems later.

What are the meanings of file extensions? What is a GID file? A simple program explaining 1500 file extensions was demonstrated. What does a particular font look like and how can fonts be easily viewed? Another simple program was demonstrated. Both the File Extension and Font programs are available (as well as hints and tips for Word and computing) on the Beast floppy disk No.1 which costs \$1. A suitable floppy disk with practical programs and hints and tips covering

the topics demonstrated will be made for each of the future Beast meetings.

To make a backup disk or a boot disk for a computer is simple (for a few!) yet there are many problems for the beginner. A list of Web sites that contain valuable advice was investigated. This subject will be expanded in the future and trials made in the safety of the Workshop SIG. An Intranet has been set up for the Beasts and those who attend the meetings will be invited to log in.

What is ahead?

This is proposed, allowing ample time for questions and repeats of the procedures:

Sunday 17 December 2000

- Father Christmas and Other Freebies on the Net. Where to search and how to download your sack of goodies
 - An introduction to PowerPoint — approximately half an hour
 - Scanning/saving and manipulating text or images. How to use unusual images/text for creating books, letterheads and newsletters
- Plus the usual questions and answers.

Sunday 14 January 2001

- How to buy a computer and what to look for with accessories. All the jargon explained
- Introduction to Microsoft Publisher
- Interesting *.*.exes that fit on a floppy disk
- Questions and answers as usual.

East Workshop

report by Gary Taylor

Fewer problems than usual but of a more subtle variety this month. Floppy drives have **not** been totally ousted by removable hard drives and Zip Drives. However, as one member learned, one has to go into the BIOS to remind faulty computers that there are still two sizes of floppy drives — 3 1/2 and 5 1/4 inch. Even the several new hard drives fitted at this meeting needed to be set as master or slave. One cannot just add a new component and assume the motherboard will know about and run it.

Do you remember a past report where a member had allowed changes to be made and the operator had since moved on, leaving no record of what was done to the machine? The saga continues with the successes this month being:

- installation of Norton software without conflicts
- we managed to get the e-mail working in Eudora, and
- the CPU was upgraded.

There is more to come.

Other computers were soon sorted out — sound card problems, Internet connections, installation of operating systems and modems. The usual search was on for suitable software drivers for CD-ROM drives and sound/video-cards. One computer had the envious list of hiccups best described as “*You name it!*”

All this went on while a patient member was overtly FDisked, repartitioned and fitted with a clean installation of Windows 98.

Genealogy

report by Bruno Dik

In the morning, whilst the Beginners’ Group was underway, we had bookings from two persons to search on the 1881 and 1851 census CDs. They both struck pay dirt and found sufficient nuggets of information to give them more leads and clues to work on. One of our members unashamedly spouted forth with thanks for the terrific help he had received from our keen genealogist Ron Hawthorne. This help has given him a new slant on his research, and that is what our club is all about — *members helping members*. The audience were VERY interested in this and asked if Ron could do searches for them also. Yes... as far as time permits, Ron has graciously offered to help those who are on our Genealogy Intranet listing.

Last Month we asked members to bring along useful information they had found on the Internet. This was not a success as there were no reports of any news gathered via this medium. Yet, this is one of the best ways to gain more information about one’s ancestors, where and how they lived, and the

social and cultural backgrounds of those times. My advice is that you get onto a mailing list for the area where you are wanting information.

You have looked at the freeware program *Parish Locator*, haven’t you? It is a very handy program because it gives the distances between various Parishes and can be used with an Internet site to obtain maps of the Parish. Before the advent of cheap cars and travel, our ancestors were very limited in the distance they could travel from home.

Of great interest was a new CD-ROM produced by the LDS, or to give them their full title: *Latter Day Saints (Eastern Region of Melbourne)*. It contains very useful guides for the beginner — how and what steps to take when seeking information. The CD-ROM also includes the genealogy program “PAF” which is Freeware and has extensive documentation. This led on to our increasing interest in the Family History Library Catalog CD-ROM. This is a must for all those interested in genealogy — it saves time in finding the film numbers of material held by the LDS. It is amazing how much information is available through the LDS. Check for yourself at <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~ldsffc>

More CD-ROMs have been added to our large collection and these (programs and data lists) will be demonstrated at future meetings. Another topic will be Colossus, so come along and be a Genie.

Quicken

report by Bob Mayston.

With the topical subject of the BAS as the main theme, we had another bumper attendance including two new members. The usual question and answer session brought forward the following questions.

The problem of GST on share purchases. Suggest to use splits to divide the costs between brokerage which is GST payable and tax coded 4 in Cashbooks and Stamp duty tax coded as 5 that is GST free.

Mornington Peninsula SIG INAUGURAL MEETING

7.30 pm Monday 4 December
Mt Eliza Community Centre
Canadian Bay Road
Mt Eliza

You are invited to attend the above meeting, the purpose of which is to ascertain members' views on

SIG meeting location, time, day and structure. Given sufficient time there will be a question and answer session by Melb PC President George Skarbek and a talk on Internet Shopping by Dave Botherway.

The SIG will save many the drive to the city. It will also give us the opportunity to recruit new members in the area and

whether there are sufficient numbers to warrant an additional daytime meeting for those who are retired.

Although not necessary, it would be appreciated if you could let us know if you will be attending, by e-mail to john.harris@acslink.aone.net.au.

All Welcome!

Some printers cannot correctly print the Quicken BAS statement. Need to experiment with modern drivers to find a solution.

Be careful of Journal entries in QuickBooks as these might not be recognized in the BAS calculations.

Upgrading of Quicken gave two screens of Billminder. Check alerts and switch off Billminder.

The theme topic was filling in the BAS. Both Quicken CashBook and QuickBooks v7.4 can handle the BAS but some manipulation is necessary in CashBook. Users should also be careful NOT to leave quickzoom reports open if they edit or change tax codes as the changes may not give the expected result.

The BAS statement is in fact three differing sections combined to give one figure either to be remitted to or received from the ATO. The first part centres around the GST collections and credits and these were demonstrated in both QuickBooks and Quicken CashBook. Remember that only B/S depreciated items are basically classed as capital acquisitions. Whether to include Government impositions like FID, BAD etc is in the ATO words "optional" a word we never thought likely from that office. Of course, in any event they are deducted so the net effect is zero. Use adjustments to either have a net increase or decrease in GST, not both.

The second section covers "PAYG Withholding" from wages paid to all employees. If there are several employees you may need to have a separate wages program but eventually all that is needed is to record wages paid

and amounts withheld. In this slot must also be recorded amounts withheld from transactions without a TFN or ABN. Finally the company tax instalment based in the ATO formula, plus fringe benefit withholding is calculated and entered.

QuickBooks handles all the transfers to the front page summary sheet of the BAS and then calculates the amount to send or receive from the ATO. In order to have QuickBooks automate the whole operation it is necessary to set up all the tax codes and associations. Viv Martin demonstrated how the whole lot comes together to print out the statement which must then be manually transferred to the "official" BAS form sent to the ATO. Even though QuickBooks can automate the process, to achieve familiarity it is better to use data from QuickBooks and manually complete the form the first time.

A short report from Bob Mayston was also presented, discussing the free seminars available via VECCI covering how to calculate and complete the BAS. Remember the Quicken SIG meets on the fourth Thursday of the month (except December) 7.00 pm at the club rooms Dorcas St.

Retired and Interested Persons (RIPSIG)

report by Leigh Hawke

Prior to our main meeting at 10.00 am, two special interest groups meet at 9.00 am — Desktop Publishing & Printing and New Users group. Both of these sub meetings are well attended and led by very experienced members. Many topics are covered with an emphasis on problem solving for

members. All are welcome, just come along. In addition to these two groups, an "Internet and hardware" subgroup of RIPSIG runs on the 2nd Friday of the month at Wadham House, Wadham Drive, Mt. Waverley, 9.00 am to noon. Subjects tackled are varied; last month we looked at Netscape and its pros & cons, while the hardware people stepped through the formatting of a new 20 GB hard disk installed on a new system. This procedure was something many people were enquiring about, so to enable all to see, the demo was shown on the group's projector.

The main session was the usual format, of questions from the floor, welcome to new members and advance notice of good things to come. Despite 140 copies of the *Ripper News* being printed, again supplies ran out. Be early to catch a copy of this publication. After a coffee break, Steve Scaife gave us an excellent PowerPoint presentation of "tips & tricks and potential pitfalls of CR-Rs and CR-RWs". This presentation may be viewed and downloaded from <http://www.asio.com.au/home/ripsig.zip>

Video Editing "General"

report by Albert Vanzet

There were no outside speakers or new program demonstrations at our October meeting. Everything was *home brew*. After the usual introduction we moved straight into "What's New" and it was a delight to see that several members came forward with some new and practical ideas. One was a contraption that not only ensured a steady picture, it looked so professional that the owner and designer confessed — that much to his surprise — it enabled him to pass a police line to record a dramatic event.

We hope he will eventually show his recording at a future meeting.

The rest of the evening was entirely devoted to a complete capture and edit of a video recording of the Gouda Cheese Market. The demonstration was designed to show both the beginners the basic techniques, and those who are already more experienced some hints on how to manage a difficult sound track and how to include a *pretend* photograph in a video production.

At our November meeting we aim to have another presentation of one of the budget DV editing programs. Our SIG computer currently uses Pinnacle's Studio DC10plus, an analogue video editing program. Its software is similar to that used in other Studio products like Studio 400 and Studio DV. Therefore we want to purchase another DV editing program that uses a different type of software, but that is also both popular and comprehensive.

Our traditional, end-of-year combined Video Editing SIGs meeting will be held on 5 December, starting at 7.00 pm at our Balwyn venue. Our speaker for this special meeting will be Paul Anderson, sales manager of *Tasman AV* who will talk to us about Hi-Definition/Digital Television and Video. There will be time for questions from the floor. After the coffee break we will show videos produced by members of both SIGs.

Would all members who plan to bring a short video to the meeting please advise their convener about the subject of the video, its length, what video editing program was used for its production and the format of the video tape. All members of Melbourne PC User Group are welcome to this meeting. To those who are unable to attend this meeting we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Windows

report by Bob Mayston

Another good attendance despite the absence (on holiday) of our leader Lynn Pollock. This month the meeting was

led by John Morris who varied the meeting format, firstly by introducing the main speaker Sean Clarke who had gathered a considerable display of equipment to illustrate his theme topic of modems.

Sean had setup the equipment to simulate a modem -exchange-ISP connection. With this the Hayes AT commands were demonstrated. All external modems will respond to the Hayes commands, but not all internal modems will. If internal modems give problems it is better to throw them out and install an external one. Sean showed how to test the computer modem using the Hyperterminal connection program found in Windows, then the exchange line to track problems. Some commands are modem specific and it is always necessary to obtain the appropriate manufacturer's manual for each modem to reference these.

Members were again reminded if they have a membrane type 200 touch phone to either replace it or preferably unplug it from the line when using a modem. The need for the phone to recharge the memory bank requires a pulse charge every so often that throws the modem connection. Call waiting can also be another concern. The most satisfactory of all — if one can afford it — is a dedicated modem line.

Sean also explained the PEG shared line system likely to be found in large blocks of units. Such systems may also be a problem for modem users.

At the conclusion Sean fielded a number of questions relating to modems. Members then showed their appreciation for the excellent presentation and demonstration of equipment.

The final short segment was Windows question time. One problem concerned accessing the screen saver and displaying the desktop as a Web page. These are selected by right clicking properties from an open area of the desktop in Windows 98.

Another member had problems accessing e-groups. These may be

found in <http://www.groups.com>. Another wanted to know where temporary (*.tmp) files are stored. As these may be found in several places, use the *find* command to retrieve the wanted file.


The November meeting was a pot pourri of members questions and related Windows topics, a sort of "Windows revisited". The questions never cease and in turn we never cease to be entertained with problems members seem to have with their machines. A Windows tips sheet was distributed drawing attention to the updated Tweak UI now available for free download from Microsoft.

The December meeting will cap another successful year for the Windows SIG under the direction of Lynn Pollock. Meetings are always well attended as new tricks and ideas are presented and new problems solved. Despite enticement to newer versions almost all remain with Windows 95/98. Finally the odd diehard V3.1 users have recently succumbed to the upgrade.

It's early days for the Windows ME version. However we will take a close look at it when a copy is available. Ash Nallawalla made a brief reference in his November editorial. We might be fortunate enough for one of our members to be adventurous enough to try it and make a presentation.

With the coming new year we will continue the idea of member presentation segments of items of special interest. Don't be shy. We are a friendly lot — so have a go.

Lynn would appreciate nomination of topics that members wish to see demonstrated or explained while the offer for a live hands on tackling of computer Windows related problems is always available. So don't fret if Windows crashes, bring your machine along for a fix.

Our first meeting for 2001 will be 5 February (first Monday). Meantime have a happy Christmas break and see you all next year. 

Time To Reflect?

How long is it since you looked at the Group's rules? Item 2, the Statement of Purposes sets out the aims and objectives of Melbourne PC User Group. This was written in 1984 — and still accurately describes the reason for our existence.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSES

2. The purposes of the Group are to conduct, on a non-profit basis, activities aimed at the effective utilisation of the personal computer and to endeavour to achieve such effective utilisation by means of:

- (1) advancing computer literacy
- (2) advancing the art and science of information processing through education and interchange of ideas
- (3) keeping members abreast of developments in computing and information technology and enabling members to exchange information and experience
- (4) representing computer users in public debate and by acting and speaking on their behalf where they would be affected by proposed legislation or other regulatory measures
- (5) providing a forum for the exchange of views amongst computer users and between computer users and the computer industry
- (6) cooperating supporting or joining with, or in, other organisations with similar purposes
- (7) undertaking other activities beneficial to the Group

In order to further its purposes the Group shall have the rights, powers and privileges of a natural person.



Computer Swap Meet Schedule

Sunday 26 November

Moorabbin Town Hall
985 Nepean Highway (at South Road)
Box Hill Town Hall,
1022 Whitehorse Road
Geelong YMCA Hall
Cnr. Yarra & Little Malop St. Geelong

Sunday 10 December

Collingwood Town Hall,
140 Hoddle Street
Springvale City Hall,
397 Springvale Road
Geelong YMCA Hall
Cnr. Yarra & Little Malop St. Geelong

Sunday 3 December

Royal Melbourne Show Grounds
Epsom Road, Ascot Vale.
Malvern Town Hall
Corner High Street & Glenferrie Road
Ballarat East Secondary College
Cnr. Melbourne Rd & Fussell Street

Sunday 17 December

The Ivanhoe Centre,
275 Upper Heidelberg Road
The Camberwell Centre
340 Camberwell Road
Ballarat East Secondary College
Cnr. Melbourne Rd & Fussell Street

**Start at
9.00 am
Finish at
4.30 pm**

PC Update will contain details of Swap Meets for the forthcoming six Sundays. For advance dates contact Technology Supermarkets Pty Ltd
Phone: 03 9886 1466

**As December PC Update goes to print, there is no later information available.
Contact Technology Supermarkets for advance dates.**

Training Schedule — December 2000 and January 2001

Ian Rankin, Training Coordinator

Application Courses

Introduction to PowerPoint \$90.20

Caroline Houston
One 3-hour session
6.30 pm – 9.30 pm
Wednesday 31 January,

This course gives an introduction to the capability of the tools using the templates and wizards, creating graphics and creating standard slides. Students will create presentations that can be given as on screen shows or printed for use on an overhead projector. This course is a must in preparation for your next meeting/conference delivery.

Prerequisites: Familiarity with Windows 95/98 including mouse and keyboard skills.

Internet Courses

Note: If you are starting with minimal knowledge, we suggest that the Internet courses are best attended in the sequence shown. More

advanced students should attend at their skill level.

Using the Internet with Windows 95/98 \$143

Lynn Pollock
One 6-hour session
9.00 am – 4.00 pm
Sunday 10 December.

This is the basic course for Windows 95/98 users. It suits people about to install Internet software on Windows 95/98 or novice Internet users who want a full explanation of the basic setup and techniques involved. Hands-on individual installation of 32-bit Internet software. Explanation, discussion and live Internet connections for students to demonstrate and practice all the major components.

Prerequisites: Windows 95/98 experience.

Operating System and Hardware Courses

How to Buy a Computer Free

Ian Rankin
One 3-hour session
6.30 pm – 9.30 pm
Thursday 14 December.
6.30 am – 9.30 pm
Tuesday 9 January.

What a computer does, what the jargon means, buying advice, tips and traps, no sales talk.

Prerequisites: None.

Note: This course is not considered suitable for those who want to upgrade their computers. Members wishing to upgrade would be better served with the Hardware Upgrade and Repair course.

Introduction to Computers \$20.00 NEW

Ian Rankin
One 3-hour session
6.30 pm – 9.30 pm
Tuesday 19 December.
6.30 pm – 9.30 pm
Tuesday 16 January.
Aim to help students equip themselves with knowledge of the use of a keyboard and mouse, and basic Windows.

Students can expect to gain an understanding of non-technical terminology and computer operation.

Using the computer and Windows 98. Turn a computer on, identify elements of the Windows 98 screen, Windows Explorer, open and close programs, using the Task Bar, maximize, minimize and restore a Window, identify the active Window, split the screen, move and resize a Window, use of scroll bars, use of Menus and shortcuts Menus, shutting down a computer.

Materials: A course manual is provided and it is suggested that Students bring pen and paper for additional notes.

Prerequisites: Student should have access to a Windows based computer outside class. Other than that, no prior computing experience is required.

Housekeeping a Computer \$66.00

TRAINING INFORMATION BOX

Where Are Courses Held?

At the Group's premises, usually in the Training Room, but check when you arrive.

The address is:
27 Dorcas Street,
(Cnr. Wells Street),
South Melbourne
VIC 3205

How Do I Get There?

Usually plenty of parking is available nearby in the evenings

and on weekends, or catch a tram to the corner of St. Kilda Road and Dorcas Street. After hours entrance is through the car park at the rear of the building.

Important!

You will obtain greater benefit from a course if you have the skills recommended by Trainers as prerequisites for their courses. Otherwise, you may not be able to keep up with the class practical sessions.

How Do I Book A Course?

Please use the order form in this magazine or (for credit cards only) phone the office on 9699 6222 during business hours or fax the office on 9699 6499.

Early enrolment is advised as places are limited. Enrolments/bookings without payment will not be accepted.

I Have Something To Say!

You can contact Training with suggestions for courses or other training related matters by sending an e-mail to Ian Rankin at irankin@melbpc.org.au

Do You Run Courses Upon Request?

Some courses are available upon request but are subject to minimum numbers. Please contact the office for details.

Tom Coleman
One 3-hour session
6.30 pm – 9.30 pm
Wednesday 24 January.

*Optimising disk space.
Minimising file loss or corruption.
Avoiding data loss. Organising
information.*

Prerequisites: Familiarity
with computing terminology,
familiar with the subject
matter of Introduction to
Computers.

Hardware Upgrade and Repairs **\$132**

Tom Coleman
One 6-hour session
10.00 am – 5.00 pm
Friday 17 December.
Two 3-hour sessions
6.30 pm – 9.30 pm
Wednesday 10, 17 January.

Students will be able to
dismantle and reassemble a
computer, replace major
components. Be aware of the
basic rules and conventions of
computer building. Know
enough to get started on
simple jobs.

Prerequisites: Familiarity
with the basic functions of
each of a computer's parts.

Introduction to Linux **\$154**

Len Krois
One 6-hour session
9.00 am – 4.00 pm
Saturday 16 December.
9.00 am – 4.00 pm
Saturday 20 January.

*On completion of the course,
participants will have a general feel
for the processes of Linux
installation, some knowledge of
administration and security and an
appreciation for the look and feel of
the basic Linux command line
interface. With this knowledge of
the basic navigation and file
manipulation commands as well
as the online manual pages,
participants will be well placed to
explore further in the open systems
arena.*

Prerequisites: The course is
designed for Members who
are seeking basic Linux skills.
Although there are no specific
prerequisites, members
comfortable with command
line computing would benefit
more.

Materials: The revised edition
Linux pocketbook from APC
including CD-ROMs
containing Red Hat & Caldera
OpenLinux implementations
of Linux. Notes are provided
on a diskette containing some
good training resources
obtained from the Internet.
Students should bring their
own pens and paper for
additional notes.

Advanced Windows 95/98 **\$143**

Lynn Pollock
One 6-hour session
9.00 am – 4.00 pm
Saturday 9 December.

*A full and detailed examination of
Windows 95 for experienced users.
Topics include adding hardware,
registry control and editing, backup
techniques, communications,
networking with Windows 95,
conflict resolution, enhancing
performance, system maintenance
and many tips and tricks.*

Prerequisites: Must be
familiar with Windows 95.

Introduction to Visual Basic 6.0 **\$231**

John Bourke
Three 3-hour sessions
6.30 pm – 9.30 pm
Monday 15, 22, 29 January.

*This course gives an introduction
to the Visual Basic development*

*environment. Students will learn
about event driven programs,
controls and properties, essential
VB language statements, data
types, decision making and
looping. At the end of this course
students will be able to write
simple VB programs that interact
with the user.*

Prerequisites: Familiarity
with Windows 95/98,
including mouse and
keyboard skills. A basic
general knowledge of
computers. Useful, but not
essential is an understanding
of programming concepts
(including data types) and
prior use of one or more
programming languages. □

Members Free Ad For Sale

15" Monitor, just serviced by
Victorian Computers
\$100
Vin. Ph: 9589 5059

SOME OF OUR BOOKS

How to Start and Produce a Magazine or Newsletter

Everything you need to know to write the text, sell the ads, design the pages, prepare the artwork, have it printed, sell the copies and make a profit. **\$38.50 (Melb PC price \$34.65)**

Publish Your Book We won't do it for you (unless you come up with one like our recent "Have a Garage Sale and Make Some Money" but this tells you how to do it for yourself. **\$22. (Melb PC price \$19.80)**

Newspaper Production using PageMaker 6.5

PageMaker has been used by many publishers for many years — but its true usefulness is in the way it handles formatted publications. This book starts where the manuals end. **\$60.50 (Melb PC price \$54.45)**

And Melbourne PC members pay no postage.

If you produce a newspaper, newsletter or other formatted publication, subscribe to Format, our free email newsletter. For details see our website:

www.worsleyexpress.com Freecall phone/fax **1800 622 805**

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Random Access

Questions and Answers from the Monthly Meeting

Answers Received

From Mary Levens: Haig Jason wants to spell check selected text without receiving the prompt to check the rest of a Word document. Word has an inbuilt command named 'ToolsSpellSelection' that will do this. For ease of use, assign a shortcut key combination: Tools (menu) – Customize – Keyboard (button) Categories (list): All Commands Commands (list): ToolsSpellSelection Press new shortcut key: Alt+S [key combination of your choice] Assign – Close to close the customization dialog. To use: select text to be spell checked then press Alt+S. The shortcut is stored in Normal.dot by default and is therefore available in all Word documents.

Questions and Answers

Q: I have a Pentium 333 running Windows 98 with a parallel port scanner. Recently I purchased an IXLA digital camera and now I can't get the scanner to work. I have removed the camera and its software and reinstalled the scanner but the system still thinks the scanner is a camera.

A: This is a problem with daisy-chaining especially with HP drivers. Although the manufacturers claim that they will work often they won't. You may need a second parallel port. Do a bootlog start ie hold down the Ctl key when you start Windows and select bootlog from the menu. This will create a log file that will show what is being loaded. Look for something left over from the camera that you can remove. You can also boot into safe mode (when you see the message "Starting Windows 98," press F8) and check the device manager for anything untoward. Also check with IXLA and see if they have any suggestions.

Q: I use Outlook 98 and when I send a text message or reply back to a text message the recipient, who uses the SINA mail handler, gets garbled text. This previously worked correctly and it still works with other people. I had to finally telnet in and send the message using Pine.

A: If other people can receive your messages and he can't, then it is most likely a problem at his end.

Q: I already have four IDE devices on my computer. I had to take the second hard disk out to install the fourth device. Now I need to reinstall the second hard disk. I have heard that you can get a motherboard with four IDE connectors to allow eight devices. Does anyone know if these can act as normal IDE devices or if I can install another IDE card?

A1: The eight connectors are for RAID arrays that provide redundancy. With the low price of hard drives, you may be better off buying a larger drive.

A2: Abit makes a motherboard with two ATA66 IDE slots and two ATA33 slots. I have had five IDE devices including a CD-ROM running on it.

Q: I am getting an error with my Sound Blaster 64 card and one of the pieces of software that I use called Cool Edit Pro. I downloaded the latest drivers from Creative and from Cool Edit, but the errors persist. The errors all start with MMSYSTEM followed by digits. I have checked the Microsoft knowledgebase and the error message is not there.

A: It depends where the error is coming from. If the card works with other software then I would suspect the piece of software that gives the problem and



John Swale

ask the supplier what the error messages mean.

Q: I am running a PIII 550 with 128 MB and Windows 98 SE and I can't defrag my 20 GB drive. It gives an out of memory error. I have taken everything out of the taskbar but it will not get past 1%.

A: Do a safe mode start and then defrag

Q: I have recently installed Corel Linux and have tried to download some large programs. The downloads get interrupted and I cannot resume them. I have read an FAQ that suggests that this is almost always a proxy problem. Does the Melb PC proxy set up allow resumes?

A: Yes it does. Check the supplier of the download manager to see if there are special set ups required for proxy settings.

Q: I have a Ritron P100 and have always had trouble with sideways scrolling. I have upgraded from Windows 95 to Windows 98 and from Office 95 to Office 97 and installed a new mouse. There is no problem with vertical scrolling but it occasionally freezes with horizontal scrolling.

A: You need to go into device manager (right click My Computer, select Properties then the Device Manager tab) and see what display adapter you have. Then check the manufacturer's

site for an updated driver, any patches or an FAQ. That sort of scrolling problem is usually a video driver.

Q: Why does my Windows 98 SE occasionally give me a blue screen of death when I try to close Control Panel?

A: Go to the Microsoft site and you will find many possible answers to shutdown problems. There are about 25 different patches for specific problems.

Q: I have Windows 98 SE, a USB scanner and PhotoShop version 2. Every now and then the scanner stops working. I go into Device Manager and there is a ! against the USB hub. If this is removed and I reinstall it, then the scanner works well.

A: Look for a Microsoft patch for scanners having difficulty with Windows.

Q: I put Kodak Pictures Now digital camera software on a Windows 98 system and it now takes a very long time to shutdown – up to 15 minutes.

A: One of the problems with camera applications is that they poll the port looking for a connection from the camera. This is so they can ask what you want to do with the pictures as soon as you connect the camera. Press Ctrl-Alt-Del and check the task manager for a camera monitor being loaded. If so shut down the monitor,

then shut down the system and see if this makes a difference. If this works ask Kodak support for a fix.

Q: When using Outlook Express under Windows 98 and you have multiple logons on the PC, how do you set up a global mailbox so that you can pass mail from one logon account to another?

A: Go into Tools, Options, Default Mail Store and create a new directory in the C: drive (eg c:\mailstore) not and in your profile directory. Make this the default store for everyone who logs on, and they will all have the same mailbox.

Q: When you buy a new motherboard it comes with fibre washers. What is the correct procedure for using them? I put them under the head of the mounting screw to stop the screw scoring the motherboard but you get many more washers than that.

A: There should be the same number of washers as stand-offs. They are used to stop the screws damaging part of the circuit board. Good quality boards have better manufacturing tolerances and don't need to protect the board.

Q: In Office 2000 when using Excel and I select page preview, page set up is inoperative ie the button is greyed out. On the normal view page set up works correctly.

A: This should work. Install service release 1 as this corrects many problems. Go into Control Panel, Add/

Random Access — Over to You

Please contact me if you have any comments on the answers given; can provide a reply for the unanswered questions; or if you cannot attend the monthly meeting and would like a question asked and included in this column.

To contact me: write to me care of the office; leave a message on the BBS or telephone me on (03) 9857 5567 AH or e-mail me at jswale@melbpc.org.au

Note: Please contact commercial distributors before asking a question here. In all cases mention version numbers.

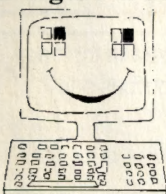
Remove software, select Office and then select Repair.

Q: Windows 98 SE Explorer has the option to have the items showing as large icons, small icons, list and details. I select list and it works but some time later it reverts to large icons. What causes this? I run the regular maintenance tasks.

A: Run System Information and select Tools, then System File Checker. The information is stored in user.exe which can get corrupted. The regular maintenance does not do the system file check. □

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INTRODUCTION TO METADATA

A short information session
Monash Conference Centre, Melbourne CBD
Thursday 7 December 2000, 1.30pm - 3.30pm
(Other dates and venues to be announced)

CAVAL and ALIA CPD members \$22.00
Non-members \$27.50

Register at <http://www.caval.edu.au/order.html>

Or, for further information contact:
Nicole Sinclair, nicoles@caval.edu.au

Dial Help Rules

The volunteer members listed on the reverse side of your mailer (*who are not necessarily experts*) provide phone assistance to other members FREE of charge. Dial Help is not free advertising for individuals who charge for their services; please advise the President directly of any such abuse.

Please, before ringing a Dial Help volunteer:

- Ring the vendor's support line and/or your corporate help desk.
- Read the manuals and have them handy.
- Turn on your computer and have your software running if possible.
- Be able to reproduce your problem.

- Have your phone beside the computer.

Keep all calls short, particularly business hours calls. If the volunteer is not available do not expect someone else to solve your problem, ring again later.

For topics not covered on you mailer or if you are unsure whom to call, ring The Dial Help First Aid Line: **9696 9200** (10.00 am–3.00 pm). A volunteer will assist you and suggest further contacts.

If you wish to help, or if you know of errors in the list, please advise the Production Manager ph: 97001566, e-mail prod-mgr@melbpc.org.au, or advise the Melb PC Office by phone, fax or e-mail — details on page 2.

Please do not leave messages on the BBS. Use phone, fax or e-mail instead.

Please keep calls within the hours indicated, and avoid ringing Dial Help volunteers on weekends. Above all, courtesy counts. For instance, please don't expect a volunteer to call you back on a mobile phone.

Day means

9.00 am – 5.00 pm

Evening means

6.30 pm – 9.00 pm

PC Update Themes and Deadlines 2001

Month & Theme	Submissions	Advertising Bookings	Adv. Copy
February Back to Basics	4 January	8 January	11 January
March Data Security and Integrity	1 February	5 February	8 February
April Computer Security	1 March	5 March	8 March
May e-Commerce	29 March	2 April	5 April
June Mobile & Wireless Computing	3 May	7 May	10 May
July Picture & Sound	31 May	4 June	7 June
August Programming Languages	28 June	2 July	5 July
September Networking and Internetworking	2 August	6 August	9 August
October Alternative Operating Systems	30 August	3 September	6 September
November Computing Applications	20 September	1 October	4 October
December To be decided...	1 November	5 November	8 November

Members' Free Ads

Small advertisements from members, for Swap, Wanted, For Sale, Free, etc., are run free of charge.

Advertisements can be submitted either by: delivery to the Group's Office as an ASCII file on a non-returnable MS-DOS diskette (any size), or by e-mail to prod-mgr@melbpc.org.au

Be sure to include your name, phone number and other contact details. Ads will be included in the first available issue.

Flat Rate Classifieds

PC Update is now accepting pre-paid, flat rate classifieds. Size: 50 words, flat rate \$40.00 per insertion. (Members \$30) Minimum **two** months run. Pay with booking. *The main requirement is that your activity must be legal.* Adverts considered to be in bad

taste are also likely to be rejected.

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Exciting **Home Based Business** opportunity involving Web sites. Contact Robert on (03)9887 1994 or robw@melbpc.org.au.

Visit sites
<http://www.skybusiness.com/robw>
and <http://www.skynary.com/robw2>
for details of this potentially rewarding opportunity.

Acknowledgments

Melbourne PC User Group gratefully acknowledges the support provided by the following organisations:

American Power Conversion for the supply of six uninterruptible power supplies for the Group's Communications Centre.

Michaels Camera & Video for a

Kodak DC20 Digital Camera.

Microsoft Australia for many years of contributions and support.

SONY Australia for equipment used in PC Update production.

Symantec Australia for many years of contributions and support.

Melbourne PC User Group Inc.

MONTHLY MEETING DETAILS

All members and guests welcome: Pharmacy College, 381 Royal Parade, Parkville. 6:00 pm

Next meeting 6.00 pm, Wednesday 6 December 2000

Take me to the Pilot! Some of the most exciting computing is happening in your hand, so we have invited **Palm Computers** to tell us all about those nifty little wonders and how they can help your computing.

The Stars of Freeware: The Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG) has gathered some of the best freeware and shareware around and bundled it onto one exciting CD-ROM. As a member, you can buy it for just \$10 but what's in it? We'll give you an overview of the disc.

Visio has been a popular program for years. The new edition is amazingly versatile — come along and see.

First meeting next year. Wednesday 7 February 2001

The first meeting of the new year (of the millennium, some will tell you) brings along one of the most popular graphics programs ever, Adobe Photoshop 6 and the new low-cost version Photoshop LE (Limited Edition). To keep the graphics theme, our very own **Thom Lyons** will show you what the Digital Photography SIG does with programs like Photoshop.

Plus: **Barry Martin's** Random Access to answer your questions, and thousands of dollars in gifts and prizes. Join the hundreds who have a night of fun and information at the Melb PC monthly meeting. At The Pharmacy College (see map below). After the monthly meeting join us for a great supper and a drink at the **Waffle SIG**: Cafe Hotel, 480 Victoria St, North Melbourne.

Do you have a product that would interest our members?

At least 250 members and guests and sometimes many more dependent upon the topic of the night, attend our monthly meetings. These meetings provide an excellent forum for the introduction and release of new products to those who are both users and decision-makers.

Meetings are arranged around planned themes. Members or presenters who are able to assist or contribute are invited to contact the convener,

Ray Beatty via the office, on 9699 6222
or by e-mail raybea@melbpc.org.au



First Wednesday each Month

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